

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO LINCOLN
UNIVERSITY'S PUBLIC RADIO
STATION KJLU-FM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the KJLU-FM public radio station of Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. KJLU was named Black College Radios Station of the Year at the 28th Annual Black College Radio and Television Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

KJLU, founded in 1973, was presented with the Station of the Year award for excellence in broadcasting on April 1, 2006. The station had previously been honored as Station of the Year in 2003, with the Program Director of the Year award in 2004, and as Station with the Most Community Involvement in 2005. KJLU continues to help the community by aiding in local fund-raising and recording and distributing public service announcements. Mike Downey, one of KJLU's station producers, was recently named United Way's Missouri Volunteer of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating the students and staff at KJLU for their accomplishments and in wishing them luck in all their future endeavors.

EVACUEE STUDY FINDS
DECLINING HEALTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in acknowledgment of a recent article in the New York Times which detailed the declining health of Hurricane Katrina survivors. The piece reiterated that we must act now to aid the many sufferers in Louisiana. Eight months since the disaster and many are still without prescription drugs, adequate housing, food, and security. This is not the type of problem that will heal itself in the matter of a few weeks or months, but of a timetable unknown to us.

It is a glaring contradiction to say that we as members of the federal government have served the people of New Orleans to the best of our ability. Not when the rates of mental disorders, and many chronic conditions such as asthma are on a steady rise as the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and the Children's Health Fund concluded in their study of the health impacts upon the Katrina survivors. Because of the lack of prescription medications and health insurance, people are not able to get the medical treatment that they need.

Among the findings in the study, 34% of displaced children suffer from disorders such as

asthma, anxiety and behavioral problems, compared with 25% in urban areas of Louisiana before the storm. 14% of those children have gone without prescription medication at least 3 months before this study which was conducted in February, compared to 2% before the storm and the numbers do not lie.

We have children in Louisiana who have missed huge blocks of class time because families are moving so much to provide better lives for them, with an average of 3.5 times since the storm. There is no reason why a woman caring for seven school-age grandchildren, none who were in school during the time of the survey, was battling high blood pressure, diabetes and leukemia without any medical treatment. She was later admitted to the hospital for pains that she has had since January. She said that it had become "unbearable", and nothing is making it easier for people just like her.

We must make it easier for people to receive the necessary care that they need. The study highlighted the fact that both Congress and the State of Louisiana eased eligibility requirements for Medicaid after the storm, and because each state sets its own guidelines, some families who got food stamps and assistance in other states were no longer eligible when they returned home and that is just unacceptable.

Trauma related disorders caused by Hurricane Katrina will have lasting impact on the lives of these children. Future American generations will have to shoulder the burden left behind from the previous. Dr. Irwin Redlener, the director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Mailman and co-founder of the Children's Health Fund made it clear that "children do not have the ability to absorb six or nine months of high levels of stress and undiagnosed or untreated medical problems" without long-term consequences. Our mental health system is not prepared to handle the amount of care it now faces unless more treatment dollars are funneled into the system.

I enter into the RECORD this article from the New York Times published on April 18, 2006 for its insightful look at the real problems in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The longer we wait to enforce legislation the more suffering these Americans will have to endure. I think it is safe to say that the study told us in conclusive numerical evidence what we already knew in story form according to Erin Brewer, the medical director of the Office of Public Health at the Louisiana Department of Health. The facts are clearly laid out and we no longer can afford to ignore them.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 18, 2006]

EVACUEE STUDY FINDS DECLINING HEALTH

(By Shaila Dewan)

Families displaced by Hurricane Katrina are suffering from mental disorders and chronic conditions like *asthma* and from a lack of prescription medication and health insurance at rates that are much higher than average, a new study has found.

The study, conducted by the Mailman School of Public Health at *Columbia University* and the Children's Health Fund, is the

first to examine the health issues of those living in housing provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Based on face-to-face interviews with more than 650 families living in trailers or hotels, it provides a grim portrait of the hurricane's effects on some of the poorest victims, showing gaps in the tattered safety net pieced together from government and private efforts.

Among the study's findings: 34 percent of displaced children suffer from conditions like asthma, anxiety and behavioral problems, compared with 25 percent of children in urban Louisiana before the storm. Fourteen percent of them went without prescribed medication at some point during the three months before the survey, which was conducted in February, compared with 2 percent before the hurricane.

Nearly a quarter of school-age children were either not enrolled in school at the time of the survey or had missed at least 10 days of school in the previous month. Their families had moved an average of 3.5 times since the storm.

Their parents and guardians were doing no better. Forty-four percent said they had no health insurance, many because they lost their jobs after the storm, and nearly half were managing at least one chronic condition like *diabetes*, high blood pressure or *cancer*. Thirty-seven percent described their health as "fair" or "poor," compared with 10 percent before the hurricane.

More than half of the mothers and other female caregivers scored "very low" on a commonly used *mental health* screening exam, which is consistent with clinical disorders like *depression* or anxiety. Those women were more than twice as likely to report that at least one of their children had developed an emotional or behavioral problem since the storm.

Instead of being given a chance to recover, the study says, "Children and families who have been displaced by the hurricanes are being pushed further toward the edge."

Officials at the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals said the study's findings were consistent with what they had seen in the field.

"I think it told us in number form what we knew in story form," said Erin Brewer, the medical director of the Office of Public Health at the department. "We're talking about a state that had the lowest access to primary care in the country before the storm. And a population within that context who were really, really medically underserved and terribly socially vulnerable."

Ms. Brewer said that some of the trailer sites were regularly visited by mobile health clinics, but acknowledged that such programs were not universally available. Neither Congress nor the State of Louisiana eased eligibility requirements for Medicaid after the storm, and because each state sets its own guidelines, some families who received insurance and food stamps in other states were no longer eligible when they returned home.

While state officials said \$100 million in federal block grants was in the pipeline for primary care and mental health treatment, the study's authors said the need was urgent.

"Children do not have the ability to absorb six or nine months of high levels of stress and undiagnosed or untreated medical problems" without long-term consequences, said

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Dr. Irwin Redlener, the director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Mailman and co-founder of the Children's Health Fund.

The households included in the study were randomly selected from lists provided by FEMA. They included families living in Louisiana in hotels, trailer parks managed by the disaster agency and regular trailer parks with some FEMA units. A random sample of children in the surveyed households was selected for more in-depth questioning.

For comparison, the study used a 2003 survey of urban Louisiana families conducted by the National Survey of Children's Health.

David Abramson, the study's principal investigator, said it was designed to measure the social and environmental factors that help children stay healthy: consistent access to health care and mental health treatment, engagement in school, and strong family support.

In the Gulf Coast region, where child health indicators like infant mortality and poverty rates were already among the highest in the country, Dr. Abramson said, "all of their safety net systems seem to have either been stretched or completely dissipated."

The study's authors raise the prospect of irreversible damage if children miss out now on normal development fostered by stable schools and neighborhoods.

One couple told interviewers their three children had been enrolled in five schools since the hurricane, in which one child's nebulizer and breathing machine were lost. The equipment has not been replaced because the family lost its insurance when the mother lost her job, they said, and the child has since been hospitalized with asthma.

In another household, a woman caring for seven school-age grandchildren, none of whom were enrolled in school at the time of the survey, said she was battling high blood pressure, diabetes and leukemia.

That woman, Elouise Kenney, agreed to be interviewed by a reporter, but at the appointed hour was on her way to the hospital, where she was later admitted, "I've been in pain since January, and I'm going to see what's wrong," she said. "It's become unbearable."

One woman who participated in the survey, Danielle Taylor, said in an interview that she had not been able to find psychiatric care for herself—she is bipolar—or her 6-year-old daughter, who not only went through the hurricane but had also, two years before, been alone with Ms. Taylor's fiancé when he died.

The public clinic Ms. Taylor used to visit has closed since the storm, she said, and the last person to prescribe her medication was a psychiatrist who visited the shelter she was in four months ago. No doctors visit the trailer park in Slidell, La., where she has been staying, she said.

Ms. Taylor said that her daughter, Ariana Rose, needed a referral to see a psychiatrist, but that her primary care physician had moved to Puerto Rico. "She has horrible rages over nothing," Ms. Taylor said. "She needs help, she needs to talk to somebody."

The survey found that of the children who had primary doctors before the storm, about half no longer did, the parents reported. Of those who said their children still had doctors, many said they had not yet tried to contact them.

The study's authors recommended expanding Medicaid to provide universal disaster relief and emergency mental health services, as well as sending doctors and counselors from the federal Public Health Service to the region.

The Children's Health Fund, a health care provider and advocacy group, is not the only

organization to raise the alarm about mental health care for traumatized children after Hurricane Katrina. A report issued earlier this month by the Children's Defense Fund said youngsters were being "denied the chance to share their bad memories and clear their psyches battered by loss of family members, friends, homes, schools and neighborhoods."

Anthony Speier, the director of disaster mental health for Louisiana, said that while there were 500 crisis counselors in the field, the federal money that paid for them could not be used for treatment of mental or behavioral disorders like depression or substance abuse. Instead, he said, much of their effort goes into short one-on-one sessions and teaching self-help strategies in group settings.

"The struggle for our mental health system is that our resources are designed for people with serious mental illnesses and behavior disorders," Dr. Speier said. "But now the vast population needs these forms of assistance."

Dr. Speier continued, "What we really, from my vantage point, could benefit from is a source of treatment dollars."

According to the study's authors, the post-storm environment differs significantly from other crises because of its uncertain resolution.

"This circumstance is being widely misinterpreted as an acute crisis, somehow implying that it will be over in the near term, which is categorically wrong," Dr. Redlener said. "This is an acute crisis on top of a pre-existing condition. It's now a persistent crisis with an uncertain outcome, over an uncertain timetable."

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL SHARON B. WRIGHT, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE NURSE CORPS, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great American and a true military heroine who has honorably served our country for 26 years in the Air Force Nurse Corps: Colonel Sharon B. Wright. Colonel Wright has a long history with the Air Force. She was born at Travis Air Force Base, CA and graduated from Hillcrest High School, Sumter, South Carolina when her father, Chief Master Sergeant Edward J. Wright, was stationed at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. Colonel Wright followed the career path of her father, a 30-year Air Force Chief, and her mother, a Licensed Practical Nurse, both natives and current residents of Charleston, South Carolina. In 1980, she was commissioned through ROTC, and she was then assigned to Mather Air Force Base, California. Experienced and desiring to make a difference, she next served at Kunsan Air Base, Korea and Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, where she deployed to Honduras with the U.S. Army.

In each assignment she excelled and was rewarded with greater responsibilities and opportunities. In 1988, she became the Chief, Nurse Recruiting Branch, at Gunter Air Force Base, Alabama. A proven leader, she was the Top Recruiter in 1988 and 1991, and she received the Recruiting Standard of Excellence

award in 1990. In 1991, she assumed duties as the Coordinator of Maternal Health Services at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. In 1994, Colonel Wright was assigned to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, as a Nurse Utilization Officer. During her tenure she completed over 2000 assignments, managed five commands, and maintained staff levels at an unprecedented 95-plus percent.

In 1998 Colonel Wright assumed her first command at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. As the Squadron Commander, she also assumed the roles as the Chief Nurse Executive and Deputy Group Commander. Incirlik presented significant challenges. Three weeks after arrival, a devastating 6.3 earthquake hit. Colonel Wright took charge as the on-scene Medical Group Commander. After her stellar performance at Incirlik, she went on to her second assignment as Squadron Commander at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas in 1999. Her astute leadership led to her appointment as Deputy Program Executive Officer at the Joint Medical Information Systems Office and Force Development Program Manager at the Office of the Surgeon General, at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC.

Colonel Wright's last assignment brought her back to Texas as the Chief, Nurse Utilization and Education Branch, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. In this position, she was responsible for managing assignments, career progression, and sponsored educational opportunities for 3,700 Air Force Nurses. Colonel Wright is a meritorious leader, administrator, clinician, educator, and mentor. Throughout her career, she has served with valor and profoundly impacted the entire Air Force Medical Service. Her performance reflects exceptionally on herself, the United States Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation on behalf of a grateful nation for her over 26 years of dedicated military service. Congratulations, Colonel Sharon B. Wright. I wish you Godspeed.

RECOGNIZING MRS. BLANCHE FELIX

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the contributions of an outstanding member of my community, Mrs. Blanche Felix. Mrs. Felix was born in Globe, Arizona, and has lived most of her life in Southern California. In 1946, Mrs. Felix moved to the San Gabriel Valley with her husband, where they have resided ever since, initially in South El Monte and later in El Monte.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Felix has sought to improve her community and the lives of those around her. Her dedication to her community has been continuous and prodigious. Mrs. Felix has served as an active member, officer, and often president of numerous organizations including Youth Employment Services, Coordinating Council, Soroptimist International, El Monte Women's Club, Lions Club, El Monte Republican Women's Club, and the Parent and Teachers Association. She was a leader in the successful effort to incorporate the City of South El Monte, as well as a leader in the

successful campaign to establish El Monte as the true end to the Santa Fe Trail.

During the past 25 years, Mrs. Felix has served as a member of the El Monte City Parks and Recreation Commission, Property Maintenance Commission, and Personnel Commission. She has also advocated on behalf of small businesses to protect them from damages from groundwater contamination, securing relief for many small businesses.

Mrs. Felix's commendable commitment to serving others has been expressed throughout her life not only through her work in the community, but also through her equally strong dedication to her family and friends.

As a resident of El Monte myself, I wish to express my sincere respect and appreciation for Mrs. Felix's contributions to our community.

TRIBUTE TO EILEEN TOY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements and mourn the passing of Eileen Toy, born August 28, 1928.

For more than four decades, Eileen worked to improve the Michigan communities in which she lived. With her husband, Glen Toy of the Livonia Police Department, Eileen moved to Livonia, Michigan, during the 1950's. After graduating with honors from the University of Michigan with a Bachelors degree in Education, Eileen earned a Masters in Education Management degree from Eastern Michigan University. She went on to serve in the Wayne-Westland Community schools as a teacher and an administrator.

Eileen is remembered as a confidant to her friends, an inspiration to her students, and caregiver to her children, Laura, Glen, Carol, and Bruce. Her biting sense of humor, brilliance, and quick-wit will sorely be missed.

Mr. Speaker, during her 77 years, Eileen Toy has enriched the lives of people around her. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning her passing and remembering her contributions to our community and our country.

TRIBUTE TO LEO GREENBLUM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Leo Greenblum for his induction as a laureate in the 2006 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for his incredible dedication to the City of Laredo, Texas.

Leo Greenblum was born in 1923 in Augustow, Poland, and moved with his family to Tampico, Mexico, in 1926 in search of a better life. His family later moved to Nuevo Laredo, where his brother, Irving Greenblum, was born. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a chemical engineering degree in 1946 after his military service in World War II.

Mr. Greenblum has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his membership and work in several civic, social,

educational, and governmental organizations such as Tesoro Savings and Loan, Mercy Hospital, and the Nuevo Laredo Chamber of Commerce. He also operated Mueblerias Mexico, the largest retail furniture and accessory business in Nuevo Laredo, for 65 years, before closing the business in 2002 to enjoy retirement with his wife, Sue, and his three children and four grandchildren.

For his dedication and hard work in making the Laredo business community stronger and better, he will be honored by the Junior Achievement League in his induction as a laureate into the 2006 Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Leo Greenblum, and I thank you for this time.

SALUTE TO SYBYL ATWOOD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, Sybyl Atwood. For the past 40 years Sybyl has been the linchpin of the social services community in my hometown, Flint Michigan. On May 11 she will be honored for her selfless work on behalf of the less fortunate at a dinner hosted by the Resource Center in Flint.

Relocating to the Flint area after earning her Baccalaureate Degree in Community Development from Central Michigan University, she gathered together a group of volunteers on February 14, 1966 and founded the Volunteer Bureau. Serving as the chief executive officer of the Bureau for more than 20 years, Sybyl defined its direction as an organization promoting volunteerism, grassroots community involvement and expanded delivery of social services in the Flint area. The Bureau evolved into the Voluntary Action Center in 1989 and Sybyl continued at its helm. After merging with United Way, the Voluntary Action Center became part of the Resource Center. Sybyl continues to head the Volunteer Services at the Resource Center.

Thousands of volunteers have benefited from her training and guidance. She compiled the Genesee County Community Sourcebook, a reference book listing over 400 service agencies in Genesee County. Sybyl is also responsible for assembling the information and the publishing of the Emergency Assistance Directory, the Youth Volunteer Opportunities Directory, and the Reduced Income Planning Guide. She also coordinates the weekly Volunteer Here column in the Flint Journal and runs the Information and Referral Program. This program receives about 350 calls per month from persons seeking emergency assistance.

For her service to the community Sybyl has received the American Society of Training and Development Chapter Award for Service, City of Flint Human Relations Commission People's Award, Genesee County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award, Toastmaster International Regional Communication and Leadership Award, the YWCA of Greater Flint Nina Mills Women of Achievement Award, the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Award, Citizen of the Year Award from the National Association of Social

Workers, and earlier this week Michigan State University named her the 2006 Outstanding Field Educator for the Flint Program.

In addition to her work with Volunteer Services, Sybyl is also a founding member of the Emergency Services Council, the Genesee County Service Learning Coalition, the local Americorps collaborative, and has found time to work toward a master's degree in Public Administration. As a member of the Committee Concerned with Housing, she is currently studying the gaps in service in the emergency housing sector. Sybyl works within her neighborhood promoting the historic Carriage Town area and the propagation of Michigan's indigenous plants and grasses.

Mr. Speaker, Sybyl Atwood embodies the sentiments in her favorite quotation, "While there is a lower class, I am in it; while there is a criminal element, I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free." She is a champion of the poor, the helpless, and the innocent. I am proud of my association with her, grateful for the good that she does, and treasure her inspiration, commitment and wisdom. The Flint community is a more humane place because of Sybyl Atwood. I ask the House of Representatives to rise today and join me in honoring this exceptional woman.

NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate the National War College on 60 years of excellence in national security policy and strategic thinking education. On April 5, 2006, I had the privilege to address the Commandant's dinner in celebration of this anniversary and I am proud to share that speech with the Members of the House:

NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE 60TH ANNIVERSARY THE NEXT 60 YEARS

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you. I am honored that you asked me to be your speaker. And thank you, General Peterson for that generous introduction.

First, I have to say Congratulations. What you have built here is truly a *national treasure*. You can be proud, as the entire nation should be, of this school and your product—because your product literally is the strength of this nation as we anticipate and respond to world events. Among your students and your faculty, you have educated some of the finest strategists this country has ever produced.

I was going to give a short speech. But then I thought about the critical time we live in and got excited all over again about National War College. I don't want to take too much time with serious thoughts, but it is important to reflect on our past in order to respond to the challenges ahead.

Sixty years ago, it was a novel idea—to create a college that would focus on grand strategy and bring together a diverse student body and faculty—senior officers from all the services and senior officials from the state department and, later, other agencies.

This was a place where students were presented with strategic dilemmas, with a curriculum that "focused on the interrelationship of military and non-military means in the promulgation of national policy."

In 1946 Ambassador George Kennan, the first deputy for foreign affairs here, explained that in those days of "transition and uncertainty," there was little in the policy world being done on the relation between war and politics. Kennan noted, "American thinking about foreign policy had been primarily addressed to the problems of peace, and had taken place largely within the frameworks of international law and economics. Thinking about war, confined for the most part to military staffs and institutions of military training, had been directed . . . to technical problems of military strategy and tactics—to the achievement, in short, of victory in purely military terms."

Kennan saw *this school*—its curriculum and its student/faculty interaction—as a home for the development of new strategic thinking at the beginning of the Cold War.

Through the years, National War College faculties have done a magnificent job teaching national security policy and strategy. This College's special place among the senior schools of Professional Military Education has been based on your attention to grand strategy. As Lieutenant General Leonard T. Gerow—President of the Board which recommended the War College's formation—said, "The College is concerned with grand strategy and the utilization of national resources necessary to implement that strategy . . . Its graduates will exercise influence on the formulation of national and foreign policy in both peace and war." It has also been based on your insistent attention to academic rigor. And, your excellence has been based on the inclusion, from the beginning, of interagency and international students. These elements of excellence, in the context of a residential program that builds lasting ties between officers of different services, different countries and different agencies, is unmatched anywhere.

Congress has been supportive of your continuing advances in all these areas. I guess I don't have to remind you of my role in the Goldwater-Nichols reforms to increase "jointness" among the services and my investigations of the Professional Military Education system.

But we can't rest here. Keeping your institution relevant and on the sharp edge takes the constant attention of Congress and the Chairman in support of each new Commandant, and Dean, and the faculty.

Your graduates test your teaching every day in a very complex environment. Senior decision makers have made some mistakes that have increased the difficulty of their missions. I know the current students review successes and difficulties as case studies so they will be even better prepared. But while today's wars demand our focus, we need to be careful we don't become so myopic that we fail to see the great challenges and opportunities ahead.

One challenge is that, with all our advanced technology, when we still have failures. I believe this is because we are ill-equipped intellectually and because we don't work together well enough. Our successes are achieved because our most astute military and civilian leaders understand people, cultures, and root causes of problems or conflicts. And they anticipate opportunities. In Iraq, Afghanistan, the global war on terror, and even with Katrina and beyond, human interactions have caused great uncertainty for our security at home and abroad. Just these few examples show why any success we have is not just a matter of doctrine and technology.

We can all think about failures among leaders at transitional periods such as Robert E. Lee at Gettysburg. He failed to grasp the impact on war of the transition from an agricultural to an industrial age. This lesson

shows that what might appear to be tactical mistakes are really strategic! And I'm convinced, we are once more at a transitional period in our history just as Kennan was sixty years ago.

Today we not only face the continuing transition from the industrial to the information age, but we are also recognizing that adversaries can capitalize on technologies in unanticipated ways. As new technologies have increased the complexity of our world, we see two other phenomena. Our adversaries use tactics we would be familiar with if we studied history. And, with our focus on technology, we must not neglect the critical dimension of human interaction.

This brings me to my real point. The challenges and opportunities before us place as great an intellectual demand on our national security professionals as at any time in our history. And while their understanding of the art of war and international relations might be pretty good today, it must be even better tomorrow. And it must be broader. It must be even better integrated across all the instruments of national power. And it must be more expansive to include nontraditional national security partner agencies and departments, as well as more and different foreign partners.

Beyond the employment of joint forces, beyond the effort to pursue the newest technologies of the science of warfare, you know that National War College graduates must be prepared not just to adopt technical transformation, but also must understand the art of statecraft as well as war.

While I do not pretend to understand the Future Combat System or the avionics of the F-22, I do know they will be useless unless we have wise leaders who know the value of all the instruments of national power and have the skills to use them at the appropriate times and in the appropriate combinations. I know it's easy to measure the increased payloads and speeds brought by new technology. But while it's difficult to quantify the value of a Kennan, a Powell, or a Pace, it's more important than ever to recognize the value of our best strategists.

As we used to say about jointness, "this can't be a pick up game." Now, it's our interagency planning and operations, and our focus on a broader definition of national security that must not be ad hoc or "come as you are."

What would help? I want to challenge the Services and other agencies, to design systems that deliberately select the right people for the right level of professional education and the right school for strategic studies. They should be able to articulate why they send one person to Air, Naval or Army War College and another to this College or ICAF, or to a Fellowship. At the same time, they need to place a real value on how well their members take on what is taught. Your graduates' future assignments should not only reflect that they went to the premier interagency national security strategy institution. Their selection for command, senior leadership, and interagency positions should be based in greater measure on how well they perform here. Did National War College Distinguished Graduates and outstanding faculty get treated any differently by their Service detailers or their agency human resource directors than those who did not do quite as well, or as those who were not selected for this outstanding education? Perhaps they went back to the very same job they were doing. This is what I mean when I have spoken about the Services taking intellectual performance at PME seriously. This is what I mean when I critique them for not promoting officers who have excelled teaching or studying world affairs and the art of war and politics.

Is this impossible? Only if we're wedded to machine age personnel systems. The Services and agencies need information age human resource systems that can recruit, retain, train and educate the innovative people we need in government and the military.

And, we need a sufficient number of people in the Services and agencies if we are going to build intellectual capital, fight these wars and prepare for the next catastrophe or conflict. We have to have enough people to be able to send exceptional military and agency leaders to be students or faculty in school assignments. The cost of preparing for the challenges of tomorrow pale in comparison to the price we will pay if we are caught without the cadre of wise leaders we need for the future.

You know, whenever I have written the Chairman, or NDU President or you as Commandants a letter, I have been pretty consistent in my questions. Do you select the right officers and civilians to serve as faculty and in the right balance? Have you kept your faculty to student ratio low with 10-12 students per seminar? Are you emphasizing history, political science and foreign area studies? Does the faculty have these credentials? Do you have the resources to ensure your students are able to conduct field or regional studies? Do your resources enable faculty to contribute to national strategy and policy through research and sabbaticals? Do you stay relevant by using real world and historical case studies? Have you fully integrated your reserve component, civilian and foreign students?

To me these are not academic questions, if you will pardon the expression. These are about the character and the continued relevance of this school.

Let me be clear. We know that the National War College has no counterpart among civilian universities. Not Harvard, not Princeton, not Stanford—none of them has a faculty, or curriculum or student body remotely comparable. This College must be protected and supported as the elite institution it is. The nation's future security requires it. The quality of the faculty, of the instruction, of the curriculum, of the students must not be compromised. A false choice must never be forced on us between spending on current operations and new military technologies, and investing in the education of our future premier national strategists.

For sixty years the National War College has been the crown jewel of Professional Military Education. Since the days when President Harry Truman sat in student seminars to learn about the Soviet Union, this College has been the place where strategic thinking has been nurtured, taught and refined. At a historic moment of great challenge and peril George Kennan, worked in this building, to formulate the containment strategy that ultimately won the Cold War without a nuclear exchange. Today, at another moment of great challenge, the need for strategic direction and thinking could not be greater. The price of failure is far too high. We have to get it right. We have to have wise people, with the right education, in the right positions, to think through these challenges and take action in concert.

When you think about all the political debates, the expedient compromises, and the resource trade-offs that take place in this town each day, it's a miracle that a college of this quality has been able to survive and prosper within the larger bureaucratic confines of the government. In a more immediate sense, I have always been concerned that bureaucracies can kill even the healthiest intellectual organization. A college such as this can decline and die if bureaucracies and administrative arms bloat while they

cut corners, dumb down, impose numbing uniformity, enshrine group think, standardize mediocrity or gorge themselves on the resources meant to be spent on the real stuff of education—the interaction between small groups of faculty and students wrestling with the profound issues of the day.

The National War College has always embodied something unique. As I look at you leaders of this college during different eras of war and peace, I sense a continuity of intellectual engagement and energy in these historic halls. It is called excellence.

Why is it here? Yes, you have an outstanding faculty, and superior students, an ever adapting curricula and your wonderful location here in Washington.

But the key, from the beginning—the genius of General Eisenhower's vision—is that experienced professionals from various backgrounds and come together, over an extended period of time, to learn from each other, and to tackle problems together in an environment that fosters understanding. This is one institution that has had no agenda other than to make wise and thoughtful leaders. In the current atmosphere of partisan tensions, this College remains a refuge from the bureaucratic skirmishes and wars.

As the first War College Commandant, Admiral Harry T. Hill explained, his intention was to “make the students ponder”, to give the students practical problems upon which to think and arrive at individual conclusions.

This is a safe space for men and women to engage each other in the search for a better understanding of each others' agencies and departments. They can gain a true appreciation of the character and conduct of war, the complexity of strategy, and the utility of the diplomatic, political and economic instruments of state. Your product is strategists. They are still critical to our future.

I can see this in your graduates . . . General Pace, our Chairman; General Martin Dempsey on the ground now in Iraq; David Sedney, our first senior State Department officer in Afghanistan after 9/11 and now deputy chief of mission in China; Buzz Mosley, Chief of Staff of the Air Force . . . generals, ambassadors, foreign military officers, and interagency leaders. Even one of our newest Armed Services Committee staffers, Lorry Fenner, is a former member of your faculty and a National War College graduate. I could go on and on . . .

This is a proud tradition and serves as the foundation for the next 60 years ahead. I hope the War College will continue to lead the way in inter-agency and inter-service strategic education. As we broaden our definition of the national security community to include homeland defense and increased international cooperation, I hope that the War College model and experience can be used to broaden government's approach to our nation's challenges.

George Kennan, typing away in his office right next door to this room, charted a strategy to meet a past threat . . . a policy that endured and was adapted, through Administrations of both parties. You all have been the watchful guardians of this heritage.

I want to challenge you tonight continue to work with us in Congress and at this College to think about how to improve inter-agency planning and operations to defeat our adversaries and to capitalize on opportunities. Lend your wisdom to the significant questions we face today—should we be working on a National Security Act for 2007 or 2009? How can we adapt a Goldwater-Nichols type reform to the interagency process? These are only two of the topics we wrestle with. You can see how significant they are and imagine the sustained, long term effort they will require.

So, we enjoy a celebration tonight, but tomorrow we must start again to renew and reinvigorate this great project of creating national security strategists. Given your history, and the imperative for the future, I am confident this College's faculty and students are up to this challenge.

Thank you for including me in your celebration. I welcome your continued engagement on these issues.

A FAREWELL TO CITIGROUP WEILL BUILT A GIANT A DEAL AT A TIME

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the now retired Citigroup chairman Sanford I. Weill for achieving the status as one of the most powerful financiers this Nation has ever seen. Mr. Weill is credited as being the architect of a global financial powerhouse from his many business deals and mergers, especially the merger of Citigroup and Travelers in 1998.

Sanford I. Weill is the true embodiment of the American dream. A youth growing up in Brooklyn during the 1940s, Weill changed the way business deals were brokered. The retirement of Sanford I. Weill has been called by many as an “end of an era”, a time when Wall Street seemed to be increasingly dominated by hedge funds and private equity firms run by nameless and faceless yet powerful financial brokers. Weill is among the last of the classic deal makers who broke many of the rules and rewrote history on Wall Street as never seen before.

Mr. Weill does not plan to return to Citigroup and has since passed on the corporation to his successor, Charles O. Prince III the current chief executive.

Retirement for Mr. Weill now consists of an array of philanthropic endeavors such as doing work for the National Academy Foundation, a nationwide network of career-themed “schools within schools” that he established, Carnegie Hall, where he has been chairman for the last 15 years and the Weill Cornell Medical College. Weill also wishes to involve himself in health relief efforts for people in Africa, a continent with compelling needs to which Mr. Weill's compassion and success has been drawn and which can only benefit from his commitment and energy.

I am pleased to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article published in the New York Times on Tuesday April 18, 2006 entitled, “A Farewell to Citigroup”, for its recognition of Mr. Weill for the many years that he has put into Citigroup and also for his commitment to philanthropy thereafter.

A FAREWELL TO CITIGROUP

(By Julie Creswell and Eric Dash)

Entering his sun-filled office in Citigroup's Manhattan headquarters, Sanford I. Weill punched a few buttons on a computer near a window before looking over his shoulder and smiling broadly. When asked if he had just looked at Citigroup's stock price, he shrugged his shoulders as if to suggest he could not help himself.

“It's up 35 cents; it's a good day,” he noted.

For years, Mr. Weill and Citigroup were, for all intents and purposes, synonymous.

During decades of deal making, he built one of the most powerful and influential financial institutions in the world.

Today, at the annual Citigroup shareholder meeting at Carnegie Hall, Mr. Weill, 73, will cross the stage and take his final bow as chairman.

Looking tan and fit thanks to a new diet regimen (exercise, no bread, no butter and, for good measure, no gin), a spirited and joking Mr. Weill insisted that while he intended to keep a close eye on the company and its stock price, he was ready to retire.

“I think it's now time for me to turn the page and go to the next chapter of my life,” Mr. Weill said yesterday. “I've hung around long enough as the chairman, and I think the company will be well served by having the chairman and the C.E.O. being the same person.”

Mr. Weill's successor, Charles O. Prince III, the chief executive, assumes the post of chairman today. Citigroup, to be sure, is not sending Mr. Weill away with nothing more than a gold watch and a big thank-you. A black-tie invitation-only party was held last night at the Temple of Dendur in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

About 350 of New York's political, financial and cultural elite were expected to attend, including James Dimon of J. P. Morgan Chase; Philip J. Purcell, the former chief of Morgan Stanley; the Rev. Jesse Jackson; and the cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Guests nibbled on tiny treats and toasted Mr. Weill's storied career.

The celebration was as much about Mr. Weill's charitable activities—for Carnegie Hall, the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell and a national education initiative—as it is about his leadership of Citigroup.

The party also seemed to suggest the passing of an era. At a time when Wall Street seems to be increasingly dominated by hedge funds and private equity firms run by nameless and faceless yet undoubtedly powerful financiers, Mr. Weill, once a volatile and insecure boy from Brooklyn, is a throwback. He is among the last of the classic deal makers who broke many of the rules and rewrote history on Wall Street.

As for Mr. Weill's retirement nest egg, it is all but layered in gold. After earning nearly \$1 billion from salary, bonuses and options cashed in over the last decade, Mr. Weill will receive a pension worth more than \$1 million a year.

Under a 10-year consulting contract with Citigroup, he will earn a daily rate of \$3,846 for dispensing advice for up to 45 days a year. Citigroup will also cover the costs of a car and driver, health and dental insurance for him and his wife, Joan, and rent for an office in the General Motors Building, as well as administrative support.

Mr. Weill, meanwhile, will continue to fly at no charge on Citigroup jets for the next 10 years. (He voluntarily reduced that benefit, which originally was to allow him free access to the Citigroup fleet for life.)

One thing Mr. Weill insists he is not going to do in retirement is start a private equity fund. Last summer, Mr. Weill landed in a white-hot media glare after he approached the board about starting such a fund. The board decided that such an endeavor would be competitive and told Mr. Weill that, if he left early to pursue it, he would have to forgo some retirement perks. Mr. Weill ultimately decided not to pursue the venture, and he said he had not changed his mind.

“They ended up doing me a big favor. Knowing my personality, whatever I'm going to get involved in, that rush is going to come again that we have to do it the best,” Mr. Weill said. “I wanted to do something different, and this gives me the opportunity to do it.” Despite reports last summer of growing tensions between him and his successor,

Mr. Weill said he believed the company—and his legacy—was in strong hands.

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
VOLUNTEERS OF SPAWAR

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize a group of volunteers serving at SPAWAR Charleston in the First Congressional District of South Carolina.

Volunteering is a powerful force for the solution of human problems, and the creative use of human resources is essential to a healthy, productive and humane society.

Our nation's heritage is based on citizen involvement and citizen participation. Volunteerism is of enormous benefit in building a better community and a better sense of one's own well being.

Many agencies that benefit from volunteers will be participating in programs to show appreciation and recognition to the many volunteers among our citizenry who possess many skills and talents which they generously and enthusiastically apply to a variety of community tasks; and to encourage others to participate in programs as volunteers.

I encourage all SPAWAR Charleston employees to get involved in serving others. I charge those interested citizens to observe this day by seeking some area in the community in which they can devote a few hours each week and give aid to people or programs in need. I wish you all the best!

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANELA FREEMAN

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the departure of a key member of my staff, Anela Freeman. Anela is a Senior Field Representative/Grants Coordinator in my El Monte office who is leaving my staff this Friday to pursue graduate education.

Anela is an only child and was raised by a single mother. She became one of the first members of her family to earn a college degree when she graduated from the University of Southern California in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations.

Anela was hired as a Staff Assistant in my El Monte office on April 20, 2003. Anela accepted her role with great responsibility and maturity. She quickly learned the importance of providing high quality constituent services and her efforts undoubtedly helped to improve the quality of life of residents in my district.

Anela is a dedicated and capable individual. She is also a team player who has effectively established collaborative partnerships between my office and local community-based organizations. Through her efforts, I have been able to provide grant workshops, grant-writing seminars, and financial literacy forums for my constituents.

Although my staff and I will miss Anela, I wish her much success and know that she will

flourish in her career goals and all aspects of her life.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. DEMATTIA

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert A. DeMattia upon his nomination to the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame.

DeMattia's tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Plymouth have brought him this well deserved recognition. Demonstrating his entrepreneurial acumen, DeMattia founded the DeMattia Group in 1978. The DeMattia Group has been involved in pioneering commercial and industrial business park development. By his design, development, and construction, DeMattia has been involved in creating hundreds of facilities in Plymouth Township. Mr. DeMattia's vision and leadership have helped lead Plymouth into a prosperous future.

Of equal import and impact are Mr. DeMattia's philanthropic efforts. Whether assisting with our local parks or working on the behalf of children through the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, DeMattia has donated his time and efforts to enrich the lives of others. Let us, then, commend Mr. DeMattia for his contributions to our community and his induction into the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO ADOLFO E.
GUTIERREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Adolfo E. Gutierrez for his induction as a laureate in the 2006 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for his incredible dedication to the City of Laredo, Texas.

Adolfo E. Gutierrez was born and raised in Laredo, Texas. He graduated from J.W. Nixon High School in 1974 and graduated from Texas A&M University in 1977. Shortly after graduation, he started his first four businesses, Melanie's Auto Sales, Clark Car Clinic, Fancy G Iron Works, and later, 3-G Electrical Supply which he opened using the money from his first three businesses, at age 21 in Laredo.

In 1979, Mr. Gutierrez married his high school sweetheart, Mary Alice York, and the couple have three children, Mary Kathryn, Adolfo Jr., and Amanda Leigh. At just thirty-nine years of age, Mr. Gutierrez joined Falcon National Bank as President and CEO.

Under his leadership, Falcon Bank grew from 20 employees and \$52 million in assets to 245 employees and over \$500 million in assets, and includes offices in San Antonio, Eagle Pass, Buda, McAllen, Del Rio, and offices in Guadalajara and Monterrey in Mexico.

Mr. Gutierrez has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his membership and work in several civic, social, educational, and governmental organizations such as the Laredo Under Seven Flags Rotary

Club, the Salvation Army, the March of Dimes, and the United Way. For his dedication and hard work in making the Laredo business community stronger and better, he will be honored by the Junior Achievement League in his induction into the 2006 Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Adolfo E. Gutierrez, and I thank you for this time.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HIGHTOWER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today with a heavy heart, as I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in honoring the life and accomplishments of a remarkable man and a dear friend, Mr. John Hightower. Mr. Hightower passed away at the age of 80 on Tuesday, April 25, after a long illness. I am deeply saddened by this loss, for John and his family have been inspirations to many throughout the City of Flint, as well as the county, state and nation.

It is difficult to imagine what the landscape of my hometown of Flint, Michigan, would be like, had John Hightower not moved here from St. Louis in 1952. An Army veteran, John started working at the Buick Foundry, where he also served as committeeman at UAW Locals 599 and 659. His relationship with Buick was shortlived, as he lost his job after confronting a supervisor who had made a racial slur. For John, this became a new opportunity rather than a setback; following the incident, he opened Hightower Electronics and Construction Company. This also served as the catalyst to his becoming one of the area's foremost civil rights proponents. He joined others across the country in the March on Washington and the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. He brought the lessons he learned from those experiences home and fought for racial equity in the local job market, against unfair housing practices, and increased funding for the Flint Public Library.

Mr. Speaker, the impact John Hightower made in the City of Flint is one that will be felt by its residents for generations to come. His loss will leave a great void, but his legacy will endure forever. I personally am grateful to have had the opportunity to call John my constituent, my colleague, and my friend. I am a better Congressman, a better citizen, and a better human being for having known him. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in paying tribute to his legacy.

THE GREAT REVULSION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a piece by New York Times columnist Paul Krugman because I believe it is well worth our reading and consideration because of its

thought-provoking attempt to discuss the discontent felt by the American people regarding the Bush Administration.

He mentions a point in time when Americans will realize that, "their good will and patriotism have been abused, and put a stop to this drive to destroy much of what is best in our country". Krugman rightly calls this hope of his, "The Great Revulsion". With Bush's poll numbers in constant decline, are Americans finally getting the picture, he asks? Bush, at the time after the September 11th attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., scored with the American people at a solid 70 percent approval. However, Bush's numbers are only at a declining 33 percent today according to the latest Fox News poll.

Some of the reasons for Bush's poor numbers are because of failure to adequately respond to the enormous need caused by Hurricane Katrina, the prescription drug debacle as Krugman called it and the disaster in Iraq. With the recent resignation of Scott McClellan as President Bush's Press Secretary, there is a sign that something terribly has gone wrong. It certainly is not surprising to see so many jumping ship from the embattled administration.

The piece also acknowledged the stark reality that the Bush Administration has no real policy on Social Security. His idea about privatizing Social Security was one issue that the American public put up strong opposition to and it failed. The American people are realizing the potential power that they have. There indeed is a need for a "Great Revulsion" to wake up this nation from its deep sleep of blind faith in President Bush and his Republican leadership team.

I enter into the RECORD the article published in the New York Times by Paul Krugman for its push to make the American people aware of their strength. To instill within them the understanding of the wrongs committed by the Bush Administration and his supporters. Krugman is calling for a move toward accountability, if not from the Congress, then from the American people as November approaches.

[From The New York Times April 21, 2006]

THE GREAT REVULSION

(By Paul Krugman)

"I have a vision—maybe just a hope—of a great revulsion: a moment in which the American people look at what is happening, realize how their good will and patriotism have been abused, and put a stop to this drive to destroy much of what is best in our country."

I wrote those words three years ago in the introduction to my column collection, "The Great Unraveling." It seemed a remote prospect at the time: Baghdad had just fallen to U.S. troops, and President Bush had a 70 percent approval rating.

Now the great revulsion has arrived. The latest Fox News poll puts Mr. Bush's approval at only 33 percent. According to the polling firm Survey USA, there are only four states in which significantly more people approve of Mr. Bush's performance than disapprove: Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Nebraska. If we define red states as states where the public supports Mr. Bush, Red America now has a smaller population than New York City.

The proximate causes of Mr. Bush's plunge in the polls are familiar: the heck of a job he did responding to Katrina, the prescription drug debate and above all, the quagmire in Iraq.

But focusing too much on these proximate causes makes Mr. Bush's political fall from

grace seem like an accident, or the result of specific missteps. That gets things backward. In fact, Mr. Bush's temporarily sky-high approval ratings were the aberration; the public never supported his real policy agenda.

Remembering, in 2000 Mr. Bush got within hanging-chad and felon-purge distance of the White House only by pretending to be moderate. In 2004 he ran on fear and smear, plus the pretense that victory in Iraq was just around the corner. (I've always thought that the turning point of the 2004 campaign was the September 2004 visit of the Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a figurehead appointed by the Bush Administration who rewarded his sponsors by presenting a falsely optimistic picture of the situation in Iraq.

The real test of the conservative agenda came up after the 2004 election, when Mr. Bush tried to sell the partial privatization of Social Security.

Social Security was for economic conservatives what Iraq was for the neocons; a soft target that they thought would pave the way for bigger conquests. And there couldn't have been a more favorable moment for privatization than the winter of 2004-2005: Mr. Bush loved to assert that he had a "mandate" from the election; Republicans held solid disciplined majorities in both houses of Congress; and many prominent political pundits were in favor of private accounts.

Yet Mr. Bush's drive on Social Security ran into a solid wall of public opposition, and collapsed within a few months. And if Social Security couldn't be partly privatized under these conditions, the conservative dream of dismantling the welfare state is nothing but a fantasy.

So what's left of the conservative agenda? Not much.

That's the prediction for the midterm elections. The Democrats will almost surely make gains, but the electoral system is rigged against them. The fewer than 8 million residents of what's left of Red America are represented by eight U.S. senators; the more than eight million residents of New York City have to share two senators with the rest of New York State.

Meanwhile, a combination of accidents and design has left likely Democratic voters bunched together—I'm tempted to say ghettoized—in a minority of Congressional districts, while likely Republican voters are more widely spread out. As a result, Democrats would need a landslide in the popular vote—something like an advantage of 8 to 10 percentage points over Republicans—to take control of the House of Representatives. That's a real possibility, given the current polls, but by no means a certainty.

And there is also, of course, the real prospect that Mr. Bush will change the subject by bombing Iran.

Still, in the long run it may not matter that much. If the Democrats do gain control of either house of Congress, and with it the ability to issue subpoenas, a succession of scandals will be revealed in the final years of the Bush Administration. But even if the Republicans hang on to their ability to stonewall, it's hard to see how they can resurrect their agenda.

In retrospect, then, the 2004 election looks like the high-water mark of a conservative tide that is now receding.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Empire State Building, one of New York City's most recognizable landmarks and an iconic fixture of the City's skyline. This landmark building, located in my district, stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of New York and the capacity of mankind to achieve the extraordinary.

The Empire State Building, designed by the architectural firm Shreve, Lamb and Harmon, officially opened on May 1, 1931. Construction required 60,000 tons of steel and more than seven million man-hours, providing thousands of jobs in the midst of the Great Depression. Renowned pictures of the workers dangling above the city remain among the most striking photos of the era. Upon its completion, the Empire State Building became the tallest building in the world, measuring a staggering 1,454 feet.

Although taller buildings have since stripped it of its title, the 102-story structure continues to delight and amaze, and following the attacks of September 11, it is once again the tallest building in New York City. The Empire State Building has also become ingrained in the popular culture by its presence in such movies as King Kong, and An Affair to Remember. Last year, 3.7 million people flocked to the observation decks for their breathtaking views of New York.

True to its gritty roots, the Empire State Building remains a working building: Every day, more than 20,000 people report to work there, passing through the Art Deco lobby that portrays the Empire State Building as the eighth wonder of the world and the center of the universe. At dusk, the world famous tower lights come on to commemorate national holidays and special events of importance to New Yorkers.

The heart and soul of New York City is embodied in the Empire State Building. From those who fell in love there to those who have returned with their children and grandchildren, everyone recognizes the Empire State Building as an unparalleled emblem of the American spirit. I am proud to honor the Empire State Building on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WEST WALWORTH

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th Anniversary of Zion United Methodist Church of West Walworth, Wayne County, New York. For 150 years, the Zion United Methodist Church has offered a place of worship and services to the area in and around Wayne County.

Through its rich history, the church has served the community by providing a place to make great memories that range from baptisms to weddings. To honor the church's 150 year celebration Zionist Methodist has planned various events such as a church picnic, potluck suppers, and culminating with a special gala dinner in the fall.

This yearlong celebration will truly be a remarkable experience to the Zion Methodist congregation and all those who participate. A true prominent staple to the area, I wish the Zion Methodist Church of West Walworth many more years of service and success.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES VERMEULEN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Vermeulen, Sr. upon his nomination to the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame.

Having served as President of the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, and currently serving as a Kiwanis Foundation board member, Vermeulen has striven to help children. But he has done much more. Vermeulen has held the post of Director for the Salvation Army, in which capacity he has endeavored to assist all who are less fortunate than he. Indeed, every December, Vermeulen is instrumental in raising money through the Salvation Army's bell-ringing project. Whether serving with the Kiwanis Club, Salvation Army, or simply helping a neighbor in need, Vermeulen has demonstrated exemplary compassion and leadership.

Let us commend James Vermeulen, Sr. for his dedication to bettering our community and our country, and for his induction into the Plymouth Community Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO IRVING GREENBLUM

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Irving Greenblum for his induction as a laureate in the 2006 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for his incredible dedication to the City of Laredo, Texas.

Irving Greenblum was born in 1929 in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and moved with his family as a young boy to the City of Laredo. He graduated from Martin High School in 1946 and later graduated from the University of Texas in 1950 with a degree in Latin-American economics.

Mr. Greenblum has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his membership and work in several civic, social, educational, and governmental organizations such as the Banco BCH, Laredo Philharmonic, Children's Museum, San Antonio Manor Home for the Aged, Ruth B. Cowl Rehabilitation Center, Congregation Agudas Achim, and the DeMolay Masonic Children.

In addition to his community service, Mr. Greenblum has served on the boards of Inter-

national Bancshares Corp. and International Bank of Commerce. He currently serves as president and founding member of the Laredo Area Community Foundation. For his dedication and hard work in making the Laredo business community stronger and better, he will be honored by the Junior Achievement League in his induction into the 2006 Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Irving Greenblum, and I thank you for this time.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAACP BAY CITY BRANCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the Bay City Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as it celebrates 50 years as a dedicated champion of civil rights. On June 2, 2006 the members of the Bay City Branch will come together to revere its founding members and renew its commitment to justice for all.

Roy Wilkins chartered the first branch of the NAACP in Bay City in 1918. This was at a time when the NAACP was instrumental in convincing President Woodrow Wilson to publicly denounce lynching. The Branch was disbanded but it was re-chartered in 1938 by Attorney Oscar Baker Sr. and chartered a third time in 1946.

In 1955, NAACP member Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery Alabama bus and one of the largest grassroots civil rights movements was born. The NAACP was at the forefront of this struggle and Reverend Obie Matthew, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church, organized the present Bay City Branch the following year on October 8, 1956. 50 years later the Branch is still fighting for equality of all citizens.

The Bay City Branch has led the fight against discrimination in housing, education, employment, healthcare, and the criminal justice system. Some of its notable fights were the Migrant Negroes from Georgia Case, the Bay County Skating Rink Case in the 1960s, the Woolworth 5 & 10 Store Sit-in, the hiring of the first African American teachers by the Bay City School District, and the inclusion of a Black History Class in the Bay City Central High School curriculum. The Branch has given away more than 70 scholarships to high school students. They have supported CORY Place, sponsored a summer USDA Food and Activity program for children, and worked with other local agencies to improve the living conditions in Bay City.

The hymn, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," was written by James Weldon Johnson in 1900. In it he wrote, "Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won." Under the current leadership of President Idella White, the Bay City Branch is marching on in the fight to remove barriers to racial equality. The Bay City Branch remains committed to educating citizens about their constitutional rights, and the adverse effects of racial discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Bay City Branch of the NAACP for 50 years of commitment to social justice. The members are to be commended for their steadfast fight against racial hatred and I pray that together we will eliminate this scourge from our nation and the world.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR EDDIE O. REED

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Mayor Eddie O. Reed, who is retiring as Mayor of Midwest City after many years of public service.

In this country we are fortunate to have public servants of Mayor Reed's caliber. All too often we take such individuals for granted. Most of the rest of the world is not so lucky, so I take this opportunity to praise a man who as Mayor of Midwest City has been an excellent public servant who has made life better for his community and its people.

Eddie Reed has been Mayor of Midwest City since 1993. As Mayor, he has improved public safety, city streets, and drainage in Midwest City. Indeed, building on the work of his father, who also served as Mayor of Midwest City, Eddie Reed has transformed his city, making it an engine of economic growth in our state. All of his many successes have resulted from his skill at building partnerships and bringing people together.

Mr. Speaker, under Mayor Reed's leadership, many quality of life improvement projects have been completed. These include the Marion C. Reed Baseball Complex, the new Senior Citizens Center opened in 1999, and the renovation of the John Conrad Regional Golf Course. Mayor Reed has also improved Midwest City's infrastructure including a new water tower, a widened Post Road between SE 29th Street and 15th Street, and a reconstructed intersection at East Reno and SE 15th Street.

Perhaps the most important accomplishment of Mayor Reed's, over the course of his distinguished career, was his successful role in the BRAC process. The importance of his work in protecting Tinker Air Force Base, and the impact that has for the economy of Midwest City and for all of central Oklahoma, simply cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude by giving the Mayor the highest compliment anyone can ever give a public servant: After 13 years as Mayor, Midwest City is in even better shape at the end of his term than it was at the beginning. That is the best monument to his achievements. I wish him and his wife, Julie, the best in their new life.

INTRODUCTION OF "NETWORK NEUTRALITY ACT OF 2006"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Network Neutrality Act of

2006." Joining me today as original cosponsors of this important legislation are Rep. RICK BOUCHER, Rep. ANNA ESHOO and Rep. JAY INSLEE.

Broadband networks, Mr. Speaker, are the lifeblood of our emerging digital economy. These broadband networks also hold the promise of promoting innovation in various markets and technologies, creating jobs, and furthering education. The worldwide leadership that the U.S. provides in high technology is directly related to the government-driven policies over decades which have ensured that telecommunications networks are open to all lawful uses and all users. The Internet, which is accessible to more and more Americans with every day that goes by on such broadband networks, was also founded upon an open architecture protocol and as a result it has provided low barriers to entry for web-based content, applications, and services.

Recent decisions by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and court interpretations, however, put these aspects of broadband networks and the Internet in jeopardy. The corrosion of historic policies of non-discrimination by the imposition of bottlenecks by broadband network owners endanger economic growth, innovation, job creation, and First Amendment freedom of expression on such networks. Broadband network owners should not be able to determine who can and who cannot offer services over broadband networks or over the Internet. The detrimental effect to the digital economy would be quite severe if such conduct were permitted and became widespread.

This network neutrality bill has essentially three parts. The first part articulates overall broadband and network neutrality goals for the country, and spells out exactly what network neutrality means and puts it into the statute so that it will possess the force of law. The second part embodies reasonable exceptions to the general rules, such as to route emergency communications or offer consumer protection features, such as spam blocking technology. And the final part of the bill features an expedited complaint process to deal with grievances and violations within thirty days.

The legislation states that a broadband network provider may not block, impair, degrade or discriminate against the ability of any person to use a broadband connection to access the content, applications, and services available on broadband networks, including the Internet. It ensures that broadband network providers operate their networks in a non-discriminatory manner. The bill also ensures that consumers can attach any device to the broadband operator's network, such as an Internet phone, or wi-fi router, or settop box, or any other innovative gadget invented in the coming years. Moreover, in order to prevent the warping of the World Wide Web into a system of "tiered service," the legislation will prevent broadband providers from charging new bottleneck fees for enhanced quality of service or the prioritization of bits.

Finally, if a broadband provider chooses to prioritize data of any type, it requires that it do so for all data of that type and not charge a fee for such prioritization. For instance, if a broadband provider wants to prioritize the transmission of bits representing a VOIP phone call for its own VOIP service, it must do so for all VOIP services so as not to put its competitors at an arbitrary disadvantage.

Mr. Speaker, from the beginning of Internet time until August of 2005, the Internet's non-discriminatory nature was safeguarded from being compromised by Federal Communications Commission rules that required non-discriminatory treatment by telecommunications carriers. In other words, no commercial telecommunications carrier could engage in discriminatory conduct regarding Internet traffic and Internet access because it was prohibited by law.

In August of 2005, however, the Federal Communications Commission reclassified broadband access to the Internet in a way which removed such legal protections. And how did the industry respond to this change? Just a few weeks after the FCC removed the Internet's protections, the Chairman of then-SBC Communications made the following statement in a November 7th *Business Week* interview: "Now what they [Google, Yahoo, MSN] would like to do is use my pipes free, but I ain't going to let them do that because we have spent this capital and we have to have a return on it. So there's going to have to be some mechanism for these people who use these pipes to pay for the portion they're using. . . ."

In a December 1, 2005 Washington Post article, a BellSouth executive indicated that his company wanted to strike deals to give certain Web sites priority treatment in reaching computer users. The article noted this would "significantly change how the Internet operates" and that the BellSouth executive said "his company should be allowed to charge a rival voice-over-Internet firm so that its service can operate with the same quality as BellSouth's offering." Meaning, that if the rival firm did not pay, or was not permitted to pay for competitive reasons, its service presumably would not "operate with the same quality" as BellSouth's own product.

Finally, on January 6, 2006, the CEO of Verizon, in an address to the Consumer Electronics Show also indicated that Verizon would now be the corporate arbiter of how traffic would be treated when he said the following: "We have to make sure [content providers] don't sit on our network and chew up our capacity."

I think these statements should give pause to those who might argue that we shouldn't do anything to enact strong network neutrality provisions because currently no harm is being done.

Do we really have to wait till these corporate giants divide and conquer the open architecture of the Internet to make that against the law? These telephone company executives are telling us that they intend to discriminate in the prioritization of bits and to discriminate in the offering of "quality of service" functions—for a new fee, a new broadband bottleneck toll—to access high bandwidth customers, we cannot afford to wait until they actually start doing that before we step in to stop it.

Once they start making money by leveraging that bottleneck position in the marketplace, will a future Congress really stare them down and take that revenue stream away?

Mr. Speaker, if we don't protect the openness of the Internet for entrepreneurial activity, we're ruining a wonderful model for low barrier entry, innovation, and job creation. Broadband network owners should not be able to deter-

mine who can and who cannot offer services over broadband networks or over the Internet. The detrimental effect to the digital economy would be quite severe if such conduct were permitted and became widespread. The deterioration of significant policies of non-discrimination by the imposition of artificial bottlenecks by broadband network owners imperil economic growth, innovation, job creation, and First Amendment freedom of expression on such networks.

The Network Neutrality Act of 2006 offers Members a clear choice. It is a choice between favoring the broadband designs of a small handful of very large companies, and safeguarding the dreams of thousands of inventors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. This legislation is designed to save the Internet and thwart those who seek to fundamentally and detrimentally alter the Internet as we know it. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill and urge the House to take a decisive stand in favor of network neutrality.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, and I thank my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. Payne, for his leadership on this issue—it is one of the critical moral issues of our times.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation. It is long overdue, and I hope that we remember that passing this bill is not the end of our country's moral obligation to Darfur—merely a starting point for our nation to begin addressing some of the serious problems in that part of the world.

This legislation arrives on the floor of this House not a moment too soon—at time when famine and war have already killed between 200,000 and 400,000 people and displaced over 2 million more Sudanese. It is nothing less than a humanitarian disaster—and unfortunately one that appears to be getting worse.

Among the many tragedies is that, put simply, it did not have to be this way. With the end of the civil war in southern Sudan, these last six months ought to have been an opportunity for progress in Darfur.

Instead, we have seen only more war, more famine, more despair. According to the latest reports, the latest wave of attacks has found thousands of people being chased from dozens of villages by government-backed militias, with death-squad attacks on civilians in Darfur and violence now spilling over into neighboring Chad as well.

And while the African Union forces—numbering only 7,000—are doing what they can, they simply do not have the resources to carry out such a broad mission—particularly with the Sudanese government appearing to be actively obstructing their work. Indeed, one senior U.N. official recently predicted "massively increased mortality" unless effective peacekeepers are installed.

And unfortunately, that has proven increasingly difficult. After two years of sanctions and countless resolutions adopted by this Congress and by the United Nations, the government of Sudan continues to defy the will of the

international community. That makes our action here today ever more important—extending the embargo against Sudan and giving the Treasury Department the authority to freeze the assets of known supporters of the genocide.

Also critical are this legislation's provisions to get the U.N. back into Darfur. Just last week, the government of Sudan blocked the United Nations' top emergency aid official from visiting the western Darfur region. That is why this bill directs the president to use our nation's position on the U.N. Security Council to resolve this matter.

In my view, the best way to end this bloodshed and this human suffering is for the government of Sudan to immediately let the U.N. in to safeguard the residents of Darfur. But should the U.N. not be allowed in, this bill also grants the president the authority to summon NATO and get it more involved—an authority we must not hesitate to use. NATO's readiness to provide more support to the African Union may well prove critical.

Mr. Speaker, we have arrived at a critical juncture. It has been 12 years since the world saw the horror of genocide in Rwanda—a half-century since we saw it on the European continent. Each time, the world has said “never again,” only to stand by as it happens again and again. Today, the House is giving the Administration the tools it needs to act to stop the killing in Darfur—it is a step forward, but certainly not be the last.

Let's pass this legislation and ensure that the people of Darfur can return to their homes and live their lives in peace.

TRIBUTE TO MR. NENAD RADOJA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I congratulate one of the most dedicated, hardworking citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District, Mr. Nenad Radoja. After working for the U.S. Steel, Gary Works Plant for over seven years, Nenad recently accepted the position of Director of Steel Shop at U.S. Steel in Smederevo, in the country of Serbia and Montenegro. Nenad began his new position on March 20, 2006.

Nenad Radoja was born on June 15, 1971, in East Chicago, Indiana. Nenad is one of two children born to Ray and Sandi Radoja. He is the great-grandson of turn-of-the-century Yugoslavian immigrants who came to United States in search of the American Dream. Nenad's grandparents, Risto and Marija Radoja, also immigrated to the United States in 1951 in search of what America had to offer. Upon his arrival, Risto began working at the steel mills in Northwest Indiana. Nenad, surely inspired by his grandfather's work ethic, chose to pursue a similar career in the steel mills.

A lifetime native of Lake County, Indiana, Nenad graduated from Merrillville High School in 1989. Furthering his education, Nenad went on to complete his Baccalaureate Degree in History at Purdue University-Calumet in Hammond, Indiana. He later earned his Master's Degree in Management from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana.

Prior to transferring to the U.S. Steel Plant in Serbia and Montenegro, Nenad worked at the U.S. Steel, Gary Works Plant for seven years, where he worked in several capacities. Over the years, he worked his way up from Melter to General Foreman to Desulfurization Coordinator, and finally, to Area Coordinator of Operation, a position he held until accepting his new position in Serbia and Montenegro. His exceptional knowledge and expertise in these areas will surely be missed in Northwest Indiana, but his acquisition in Serbia and Montenegro will be a definite improvement to their organization.

Though extremely dedicated to his work, Nenad selflessly gives much of his free time and energy to his community, his friends, and most importantly, his family. Nenad now resides in the capital city of Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, with his loving wife, Branka, his daughters, Katarina and Sanja, and his son, Stefan.

Also important to note, Nenad is an avid sports fan. In his spare time, Nenad enjoys playing basketball and watching football games.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending and congratulating Nenad Radoja on beginning his new position as Director of Steel Shop at U.S. Steel in Smederevo, Serbia and Montenegro. Nenad has improved the lives of many residents in Indiana's First Congressional District. Northwest Indiana will surely miss Nenad's loyal service and uncompromising dedication.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL ALEXANDER MEYER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Mr. Samuel Alexander Meyer for his induction as a laureate in the 2006 Laredo Business Hall of Fame, and for his incredible dedication to the City of Laredo, Texas.

Samuel Alexander Meyer was born on November 19th, 1917, the only child of the late Samuel Meyer of Rochester, New York, and Maryanne Alexander Meyer of Laredo, Texas. During his summers that he spent as a young boy with his Aunt Frances and Uncle Lewis Alexander on Victoria Street, he got to know the City of Laredo.

He graduated from the University of Rochester in 1940 with a bachelor's degree and attended graduate school at the University of Texas with a degree in Spanish and Latin-American civilization. After graduation, Mr. Meyer served in the United States Navy for four years in the South Pacific as an ensign from 1941 to 1946, and joined the faculty at Laredo Junior College in 1947 where he taught Latin-American history and economics for five years.

Mr. Meyer married Olga Rosenbaum, and had three children, Frances Carolyn, Miriam Alexis, and Alexander Samuel Meyer. In 1953, he became a co-owner of Laredo's only Studebaker automotive dealership, and then later assumed responsibility for one of Laredo's first men's stores, Alexander Fine Men's Wear. He

also started Meyer Investments while running the family business.

Mr. Meyer has admirably served the community of Laredo, Texas, through his membership and work in several civic, social, educational, and governmental organizations as chairman of the board of trustees at Laredo Community College, chairman of the board for the Laredo Public Library, member of the Child Welfare Board for Webb County, director of the Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra, a member of the Socratic Club, president of the Civic Music Association, president of the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Laredo, president of the Astronomy Club, a member of the Somosiete hunting lodge, a member of the French Club, and a member of the Stardusters.

For his dedication and hard work in making the Laredo business community stronger and better, he will be honored by the Junior Achievement League in his induction into the 2006 Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of Samuel Alexander Meyer, and I thank you for this time.

WILLIAM SLOAN COFFIN, JR.: A COURAGEOUS MAN

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, Vermont has lost one of its finest, most ethical and courageous residents. The Reverend William Sloan Coffin, Jr., who lived in Stratford, Vermont, has died at the age of 81.

When the Civil Rights Movement began, when a brave coalition of black and white Americans brought the attention of the Nation to the injustice of segregation, Rev. Coffin was there, standing up for what was right. He was a Freedom Rider in Montgomery, Alabama in the early years of the Civil Rights struggle, and was arrested there in 1961. He was arrested in Baltimore two years later in an anti-segregation protest and again a year later in St. Augustine, Florida as he tried to integrate a lunch counter. He was one of those who, in the phrase of the day, “put their bodies on the line” to bring about a more equitable and just America.

When the United States entered Vietnam, and the war escalated, Rev. Coffin was an articulate voice for peace. As Chaplain at Yale University, he offered the chapel as a sanctuary for those who refused to serve in Vietnam. He delivered the draft cards of antiwar protesters to the Justice Department in an effort to mount a legal challenge to the draft. Instead, the government challenged him, arresting Rev. Coffin, Dr. Benjamin Spock and three others for counseling draft evasion. He was convicted but the verdict was subsequently overturned by an appellate court.

In his years at Yale and later at Riverside Church in New York, his was an eloquent voice for the disadvantaged and disinherited in America. He showed great courage in questioning the ethics of America's military decisions and unstintingly opposed the nuclear arms race. He was a foremost proponent of nuclear disarmament, calling for a nuclear

freeze. He opposed both the Persian Gulf War in 1991 under first President Bush, and the invasion of Iraq in 2003 by the current President Bush.

William Sloan Coffin, Jr. was a man of strong and passionate views. Needless to say, not everyone agreed with all of his positions. But whoever knew him—and I count myself fortunate to be among them—recognized his courage, his dedication to ethical reasoning, and his profound commitment to social justice. He served as a model of the engaged intellectual to generations of students and to countless Americans. The Nation will miss him, Vermont will miss him, and I will miss his strength and passion for justice.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
JOSEPH L. FORTUNA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Joseph L. Fortuna, devoted family man, United States Veteran, business leader, and friend and mentor to many.

As the founder of Fortuna Funeral Home on Fleet Avenue in Cleveland, Mr. Fortuna served the citizens of Slavic Village, Newburgh Heights and communities beyond with great care, compassion and professionalism, for more than 50 years. He grew up near Union Avenue, and held a lifelong commitment to family, faith and to the residents of southeast Cleveland that reflected throughout his lifetime.

Mr. Fortuna's generous spirit, kindness of heart and sense of civic responsibility had a positive impact on the lives of countless individuals and families. He was a lifelong member and leader at his parish, St. John Nepomucene, past President of the Laurentian Athletic Club, and remained proudly connected to his Slovenian heritage through his involvement with various Slovenian organizations. Mr. Fortuna was honored many times for his significant contribution to our community and was named "Man of the Year" in 1975 by the Slovenian National Home of Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of my friend, Joseph L. Fortuna, whose kindness, compassion and generosity has served to uplift the people of Fleet Avenue and miles beyond. I offer my deepest condolences to Mr. Fortuna's beloved wife, Virginia; to his beloved children, Joseph; Mary Ann (Jim), John (Roberta), and Jane (Phillip); and to his grandchildren and extended family and many friends. Mr. Fortuna's life, framed by love and kindness, will always remain in the hearts and memories of his family and his community, and he will never be forgotten.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF'S
DEPUTY KEITH HANSEN, THE
AMERICAN RED CROSS AND THE
CITIZENS OF CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Caledonia Township and the American Red Cross to save the life of Sheriff's Deputy Keith Hansen, who was severely injured while serving in the line of duty.

Deputy Keith Hansen was critically injured when a suspect crashed his vehicle into Hansen's patrol car during a high speed chase in Caledonia Township. He received multiple severe injuries in the crash.

To survive, Deputy Hansen required more units of blood than the hospital could provide. The American Red Cross and the citizens of the Caledonia Township responded with an immediate blood drive and fund-raiser. Within one day, the community donated more than fifty units of blood and collected a significant amount of money to help save the life of Deputy Keith Hansen.

The efforts to save Deputy Hansen's life reflect the best of the American spirit; neighbors uniting to save the life of an injured officer who is sworn to protect them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Deputy Keith Hansen for his service, and the citizens of Caledonia Township and the American Red Cross for helping to save his life. They are truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

DEMANDING THAT JAPAN ACKNOWLEDGE ITS ENSLAVEMENT
OF "COMFORT WOMEN" DURING
WORLD WAR II

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, during World War II and the colonial occupation of Asia in the 1930s and 1940s, the Armed Forces of Imperial Japan, often in collusion with private traffickers, forced over 200,000 young women and girls into military brothels. These women were euphemistically known as "comfort women." This despicable sexual enslavement of mostly Korean and Chinese women was officially commissioned and orchestrated by the Government of Japan.

In one of the most extensive cases of human trafficking in the 20th century, women and girls throughout Asia were recruited by force, coercion, or deception, transported across national borders, and kept at the mercy of the Japanese military in subhuman conditions. They were raped, beaten, and forced to have abortions.

However, the horror of this experience did not end with the cessation of hostilities. Many comfort women were killed by Japanese soldiers after Japan surrendered. Some of these women could not return to their homes, and found themselves abandoned in hostile lands where they were viewed as collaborators.

Those who survived live daily with the painful memories of their enslavement, and many still suffer serious health effects as a result of their ordeal. Due to the shame connected to their captivity, many comfort women chose to conceal their enslavement and many others have come forward about it only in recent years.

While the facts of these crimes are incontrovertible, the Government of Japan has not officially accepted responsibility for this atrocity. Some textbooks used in Japan minimize the comfort women tragedy and distort the Japanese role in these and other crimes committed during World War II. Moreover, as recently as June 2005, Japanese Government officials praised the removal of the term "comfort women" from Japanese textbooks.

The Government of Japan's disregard for correcting past wrongs has been further demonstrated by its leaders' frequent pilgrimages to the Yasukuni Shrine near the Imperial Palace in central Tokyo. The Yasukuni Shrine is dedicated to the 2.5 million people who died in Japan's conflicts between 1853 and 1945 but also memorializes 14 convicted Class A war criminals that committed many atrocities during World War II.

Despite international criticism, the current Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, has made several visits to Yasukuni since he took office in 2001 and has stated that he will continue making the visits through the end of his term.

On April 4, 2006, Congressman CHRISTOPHER SMITH and I introduced H. Res. 759, legislation that calls on Japan to acknowledge and accept responsibility for forcing women and girls into sexual slavery during the World War II era. We hope that this bill will encourage Japan to be honest about its history and to educate current and future generations about this crime against humanity.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation, in order to demonstrate that we do not forget the suffering of the comfort women and the criminality of those who enslaved them.

HONORING DR. MOSE TJITENDERO
FORMER SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, NAMIBIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to join my colleagues here in the U.S. and across the globe in commemorating and honoring the extraordinary life of Dr. Mose Tjitendero, Speaker of the National Assembly in Namibia and a man known for his dedication to the principle of One Namibia, One Nation. Highly regarded throughout his life as an outstanding leader and a true patriot, Dr. Tjitendero was dedicated to advancing justice, independence and self-determination for the people of Namibia and for others around the world. Dr. Tjitendero passed away on April 26, 2006 at the age of 63 following a short illness.

Born the son of a Herero slave, Dr. Tjitendero hailed from a small village called Okomakuara in the Ovitoto area of Namibia. He was expelled from Augustineum Training

College in 1963 after he attended a political rally in Windhoek, and left Namibia for exile in 1964 when he was only 20 years old. Upon his arrival in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, he was appointed to be the student representative of the South West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO political movement. In that role he became a radio broadcaster for the liberation movement, and as a part of the Tanganyika club, was instrumental in propelling SWAPO into an international movement in the 1960s.

In 1967 Dr. Tjitendero received a scholarship to attend Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, where he completed a B.A. degree in History and Political Science, and in 1976 he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts School of Education. In the mid-1970s, SWAPO called Dr. Tjitendero to Zambia to open the United Nations institute for Namibia in Lusaka, where he taught for 5 years.

Dr. Tjitendero served as the first Speaker of Namibia's National Assembly from 1990 until 2004, and had been a member of the SWAPO Central Committee since 1981. He was instrumental in teaching and motivating other leaders in his country, and at the 2004 SWAPO Extraordinary Congress, he nominated Hidipo Hamutenya, a fellow student from his days at Lincoln University, to be his party's presidential candidate.

Throughout his tenure in the National Assembly, Dr. Tjitendero was widely respected and viewed as an impartial chairperson of parliamentary proceedings and an advocate for popular participation in Namibia's democracy. Revered by his colleagues as honest, hard-working, and thoroughly dedicated to promoting peace, freedom and national unity, Dr. Tjitendero's contributions to the development of democracy, equality and economic opportunity in Namibia are truly immeasurable. Though his death is loss to the entire Namibian nation, the legacy of his work will continue to improve countless lives in throughout Namibia and beyond for generations to come. My thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Tjitendero's wife Sandy and his two children, as well as all of his friends, colleagues, and the people of Namibia as they mourn the loss of this exemplary leader.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO MILDRED
RESNICK ON THE OCCASION OF
HER 90TH BIRTHDAY**

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend warm birthday wishes and to pay tribute to a dear friend and great woman, Mrs. Mildred Resnick.

Mrs. Resnick was born to Russian immigrant parents who migrated to Ulster County, New York around the time of World War I. She was raised in Kerhonkson, in the congressional district I represent, and continues to reside nearby in Ellenville. Together with her late husband Louis, Mildred has generously contributed to and nurtured the surrounding community.

The Resnicks have embodied the true meaning of philanthropy. Through their generous donations and personal involvement,

they improved the material, social, and spiritual welfare of their community through thoughtful and charitable activities.

Lou and Mildred dedicated themselves to giving young people the opportunity to pursue higher education. Through generous scholarship assistance from the Resnicks, many students have been able to attend SUNY New Paltz to pursue their education. In addition, students' educations at New Paltz, SUNY Delhi and Cornell University have been enriched by the engineering school, gymnasium and library, respectively, that the Resnick family endowed.

The Resnick's impact on our region extends far beyond their support for higher education, however. Through their contributions to the Ulster County Mental Health Clinic in Ellenville, the Ellenville Community Hospital, and countless other institutions, the health and well being of the surrounding community has been greatly improved.

Together, Lou and Mildred also made their mark on the region's economy. The Channel Master Corporation, founded by Lou and his brothers, was a steady, faithful employer in Ulster County for decades. The Resnicks also invested in several other enterprises to boost the local economy, including the construction of the Joseph Y. Resnick airport, and support for the revival of the Catskill region's tourism industry.

Although Lou and Mildred worked together on so many important projects in Ulster County and the surrounding region, we must also commend Mildred's many accomplishments in her own right. She has chaired the March of Dimes fundraising campaign and has been an instrumental supporter of the Eleanor Roosevelt Institute for Cancer.

It is impossible for me to list here all of the wonderful and generous contributions Mildred has made to the lives of people in her community and all over the country, but this fact is clear: I, like so many others, am truly grateful to have known and worked with her. Mildred has been a dedicated and loving wife, a beloved mother and grandmother, and a faithful friend. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to publicly say "thank you" and to wish her a very happy birthday.

**COMMEMORATING THE 91ST ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE**

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in commemorating the 91st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and remembering the death of 1.5 million Armenians during the years 1915–1923.

We have witnessed a reprehensible ninety-one years of denial by the international community of one of the most horrific crimes against humankind, the systematic and planned extermination of an entire ethnic group. The failure of the international community to hold the Ottoman Empire accountable for the Armenian Genocide initiated a cycle of genocide that continues to this day in Darfur, where an estimated 400,000 people have died and 2.5 million people have been displaced from their homes.

Turkey's persistent denial of their predecessor government's responsibility for the Armenian Genocide sets a dangerous precedent that makes future genocides more likely. In fact, many of the tactics employed by the Ottoman Empire against the defenseless Armenian population are now being used in Darfur today—forced exile, systematic deprivation of food and water, and murder through starvation. If the cycle is to end, there must be accountability for genocide. This is why it is critical that the U.S. government officially recognize the Armenian Genocide and also, pressure Turkey to end its campaign of genocide denial. Genocide denial is the last stage of genocide and what Elie Wiesel has termed to be a "double killing." The United States cannot remain silent as this "double killing" continues every day through Turkey's multi-million dollar worldwide campaign to suppress the teaching of the Armenian Genocide.

I stand united with Armenians and Armenian-Americans in my district and around the country who continue to fight for recognition of the atrocities of the Armenian Genocide so the world will never forget the first crime against humanity in the 20th Century. And I promise to continue to stand firm against the efforts of those who deny the Armenian Genocide.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY C.
WILLIAMS**

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Timothy C. Williams, who has been appointed by Governor Kenny Guinn to replace retiring District Judge John McGroarty.

Timothy Williams has a distinguished record of service as an attorney in the Henderson, Nevada area. Mr. Williams has been a practicing attorney for the past 21 years representing physicians in medical lawsuits and accident victims in injury cases; Mr. Williams has also been a member of the Nevada bar since 1986. In recent years Mr. Williams has been heavily involved in alternate methods of dispute resolution, such as mediation and arbitration. He advocates these dispute resolution mechanisms as a means of decreasing court backlogs by increasing the likelihood that a case will be settled rather than going to trial.

Mr. Williams has a degree in business from Indiana University and received his law degree from Ohio Northern University. He will no doubt be an asset to the bench.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Timothy C. Williams for his distinguished legal career. I wish him the best with his new appointment and I am sure that he will serve the bench with honor.

HONORING STEPHAN L. WALTERS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give well deserved recognition to Stephan Walters, an extraordinary soldier,

teacher and citizen from my Congressional District.

Stephan is currently serving on active duty with the U.S. Army Reserves at Fort Knox, Kentucky. As Captain, he is responsible for training and mentoring a full brigade. He also serves as an officer for community outreach, equal opportunity, safety and soldier retention. Prior to his current assignment, Captain Walters served for three years as a member of the 3rd U.S. Infantry, also known as the Presidential Honor Guard, performing a range of ceremonial duties at the White House, Pentagon, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Captain Walters has also distinguished himself in civilian life, earning a bachelor degree in social studies and a masters degree in secondary education from the University of Kentucky, graduating from both programs with honors. Walters was a five year member of the University of Kentucky's football team, earning numerous awards and honors for his academic and athletic achievements.

Upon graduation, he accepted a position at Jeffersontown High School in Louisville, KY teaching history and coaching football and track. In 2004, he was nominated by his colleagues for the History Teacher of the Year Award, a special honor he later received from the Kentucky Historical Society.

It is my great privilege to honor Stephan Walters today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his distinguished service to his country and his community. His unyielding sense of duty and sacrifice represent the very best of what it means to be an American soldier. His achievements as a civilian, especially his dedication to developing young minds in the classroom and on the athletic field, are further marks of personal greatness. He is a man of exemplary leadership and dedication worthy of our collective respect and appreciation.

IN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and pleasure to join with my fellow members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This May marks the 28th time America has recognized and celebrated the many contributions and achievements of Asian Pacific Americans.

America has reached greatness in part by the accumulation of ideas from those with varied heritage and backgrounds. In particular, Asian Pacific Americans have made profound contributions to the arts, education, science, technology, politics and athletics.

Asian Pacific Americans have played an active and crucial role in the development of this country, from knitting together this nation with the transcontinental railroad to bringing the world closer together through development of the latest Internet technology.

This year, Congress will be reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act, including provisions that provide bilingual assistance to voters who need it. These measures protect the ability of

all voters to participate in our nation's political process. Toward this end, I, along with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, am reaching out to the Asian Pacific American community and speaking to the importance of civic participation and protecting the APA vote.

The Asian Pacific American community remains and always will be an integral and vibrant part of American society. As we take part in the celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I urge everyone to participate more deeply in the civic life of our nation. The civic engagement of Asian Pacific American's will help define our collective future. By working together we can build bridges, and build upon our great nation's diverse communities. We move forward with determination and unity.

I encourage Congress and the American people to spend part of May absorbing the legacy, culture and achievements of the Asian Pacific American community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM "BILL" CARNEY ALFRED

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker I rise today in honor of Mr. William "Bill" Carney Alfred who died at his residence following health complications on Monday, April 3, 2006.

Many were touched by Bill's dedication, concern for others, and enthusiasm for life. Bill was a proud member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and the Loyal Order of Moose #1976 in Weston, West Virginia. For many years, Bill worked at the Kroger Company in Weston before retiring as head of the produce department. Bill truly made a difference in many lives and will be fondly remembered by the many people he touched with his kindness. We are fortunate to have had him as our friend.

I want to extend my thoughts and prayers to the Alfred, Rafferty, and Carney families during this difficult time. He is survived by one brother, John Kilker Carney of Springfield, VA, and by many loving cousins, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. We are never prepared for the loss of a loved one, but God is always prepared to help us through that loss. I pray your own faith and fondest memories will give you strength and comfort during such a trying time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of the life of Mr. William Carney Alfred.

HONORING RICK CRANDALL

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a well-known and beloved voice in the Greater Denver community. Mr. Rick Crandall, host of "The Breakfast Club" on AM 1430 KEZW, is celebrating his 15th anniversary on the air on June 17,

2006. This occasion marks a long and storied career dedicated not only to his listeners and fans, but to the community in which he thrives. Rick deserves a moment of pause to reflect on his career, and I join him and his fans in doing so.

Rick Crandall got off to a shaky start on his first day on the air at KEZW when he confused Tommy Dorsey with Glenn Miller, much to the ire of his musically inclined listeners. Over time, though, Rick became as important to his fans' mornings as a cup of coffee, and he was soon the centerpiece of a community of listeners and friends that enjoy music, news, and personal stories throughout the morning hours. "The Breakfast Club" is no mere radio show; it is a collection of like-minded people enjoying one another's company through Rick's engaging personality and love of entertaining his fans.

As if his career in radio wasn't impressive enough, Rick Crandall is also well-known for his stunning devotion to community service and public well-being. Rick has raised enormous amounts of funding for charities and, as a result, has earned both the Colorado Broadcasters Association Citizen of the Year Award and The Colorado Broadcasters Association Harry Hoth Award for Public Service, among many others. Specifically, Rick's work with military veterans is second to none, as he works constantly to assist and honor veterans both with his radio show and by engaging in the veteran community. Rick has also put substantial effort into raising money for and building the Colorado Freedom Memorial, a monument to all Coloradans who have been killed in action. I look forward to seeing the completion of this project, and I honor Rick's efforts to make it happen.

It would be difficult to list all of Rick's accomplishments and projects, suffice it to say that his presence in Colorado has been a blessing for all who know him. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Rick Crandall as he celebrates the 15th anniversary of "The Breakfast Club," and I look forward to many more years of great radio and community service.

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE: THE TIME IS NOW

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to address the serious health care crisis our Nation is facing today. The time is now for Congress to address health care in America. Too many of my constituents, like many other hard working Americans across the country, are suffering unnecessarily due to our flawed health care system. There are now more than 46 million Americans without health insurance. Our system of private health insurance that fails to provide coverage to so many of our citizens also contributes to the double-digit health care inflation that is making America less competitive in the global economy.

The only real solution to this crisis is National Health Care. In this most powerful nation in the world, lack of access to health care should not force local and state governments, companies and workers into bankruptcy, while

causing unnecessary illness and hospitalization. The sentiments that will be shared tonight have been echoed in citizen congressional town hall meetings my democratic colleagues and I have held in 93 cities across the country. The response to our call for stories was tremendous, and the uninsured turned out in great numbers. Colleagues, we must not forget that for every story we hear tonight, there are thousands, even millions of stories that will go unheard.

What follows are excerpts from letters I have received.

(1) Kate L. wrote: I was left with \$70,000 in uncovered medical bills as a result of an episode of severe depression ten years ago. This coverage deficit was not the result of a miserly employer; I was the President of an environmental consulting firm and I chose the policy. I reviewed more than 10 policies and was surprised to find that they all severely limited mental health coverage through higher deductibles and co-pays and restrictive annual and lifetime maximums. The policy we purchased was great for everything except it had a separate \$750 deductible, 50/50 co-pay, \$1,500 annual outpatient maximum and \$2,500 inpatient maximum for mental health treatment.

My bills started to pile up as my psychiatrist and I tried numerous medications and combinations of medications. Because my doctor was concerned about my suicidal behavior, he recommended that I be admitted to a hospital while we continued to experiment with medications. Although I was in the hospital for eight weeks, I spent my inpatient maximum after only several days. It took me over five years to pay of the \$70,000 I owed and the stress of the financial burden slowed my recovery. In addition, the medication that I take to treat my illness costs approximately \$800 per month. I was recently forced to leave a job I loved with a small consulting firm because they could not provide the insurance coverage I needed.

(2) Mrs. White wrote: I am an Army mom, who can't afford health insurance while my husband and I agonize over our son's precarious fate. The psychological and emotional toll on us both is paralyzing. While I frantically look for a job, I still must support my mother and sister financially. I pay \$300 monthly for catastrophic health insurance, but cannot afford prescription drugs, lab tests, and specialist visits. I cannot survive with these stresses for much longer.

(3) Jo L. wrote: I have a brain tumor. Naturally, the health insurance industry has labeled me as having a "pre-existing" condition and will not provide my coverage. I pay \$255 a month for 5 pills to subdue my tumor. For the time being, I am paying for this out of pocket, but I need a permanent solution.

Even health care providers in my District have written to express their concerns.

Dr. Scott wrote: As a physician in Michigan I see many patients with no health care and it saddens me. Many people who cannot afford health care will delay going to any health care provider if injured, or shorten treatment plans due to the lack of funds. Many insurance companies have raised premiums out of reach here and even Medicaid and Medicare have decreased coverage due to the lack of funding. We need to rally together to get every citizen health care. By doing this we can help eliminate discrimination in health care and this can lead to eliminating other forms of discrimination.

How many stories do we have to read before Congress realizes that it is time for change? We can do better for our citizens. My bill, H.R. 676 and National Health Care is the answer.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MICHAEL
CRILEY, MD

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, everyday, people's lives depend on the quick reaction and competent care of emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Whether it is an automobile accident, heart attack, drowning or gunshot wound, EMTs and paramedics provide vital attention as they care for and transport the sick or injured to a medical facility.

The modern EMT and paramedic programs across the nation would not exist without the significant contributions of Dr. Mike Criley.

Dr. Criley developed the Los Angeles County Paramedic Program in 1969. The program trains first responders to provide critical life support to heart attack victims. Pre-hospital advanced cardiac care was a major innovation in the field of emergency medical services. It was also controversial, as it placed firefighters in a medical role, something both firefighters and many in the health field resisted.

But the program showed its value when paramedics were dispatched to provide onsite medical services after the 1971 Sylmar earthquake. The next year, the television show 'Emergency!' followed the experiences of two fictional Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics. This legitimized the effort and led to communities across the country instituting their own paramedic training programs modeled after Dr. Criley's innovation.

As a result of Dr. Criley's efforts, the Los Angeles County Paramedic Training Center is named in his honor.

Dr. Criley also discovered a valuable life-saving technique known as cough CPR. He documented that coughing during cardiac arrest or life-threatening heart rhythm disorders pumps oxygenated blood to the brain and maintains consciousness while help is summoned.

Dr. Criley has also been instrumental in training over 100 cardiologists and has taught cardiology to over 6,000 medical students and residents throughout his career. He has developed interactive multimedia programs in three languages that are used around for medical and nursing education programs around the world.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Criley has served on the faculty of two of the nation's most prestigious medical institutions. After serving as Director of Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories at Johns Hopkins Hospital, he returned to his native California to join the faculty at the UCLA School of Medicine. He is now Chief of Cardiology at Los Angeles County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center where he continues to care for patients, teach, and perform research.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to share how proud I am to have Mike Criley working in one of my district's premier biomedical research facilities, the Los Angeles

Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. His contributions have saved many lives in Los Angeles, and across the Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE
T. WONG

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lawrence T. Wong and his associates at Arcata Associates, Incorporated for their being honored by the United States Small Business Association, as Prime Contractor of the Year for Region IX.

Under Mr. Wong's leadership, as President/CEO of Arcata Associates, the organization has maintained its commitment to quality and excellence. The Prime Contractor of the Year for Region IX award honors the organization for the outstanding goods and services that they have provided the government and industry as prime contractors. Arcata Associates being awarded the Small Business Association Prime Contractor of the Year for Region IX award is a testament to this commitment. Mr. Wong's hard work, innovative ideas, dedication to the community and professional excellence has led to his being celebrated by the Small Business Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lawrence T. Wong and his associates at Arcata Associates, Incorporated for their outstanding success. I congratulate them for the recognition they have so rightly earned, and thank them for their contributions to our Nation's economy and communities.

HONORING COMMUNITY
ALTERNATIVES KENTUCKY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Community Alternatives Kentucky, an exceptional organization in my Congressional District that delivers community-based supportive services to persons with disabilities.

The noble mission of Community Alternatives Kentucky is to enhance the lives of the individuals they serve by helping them become active members of their communities and realize their personal goals. They provide a wide range of day-to-day residential and employment services to assist disabled individuals with health needs, personal care, physical and speech therapy, transportation, housekeeping, recreation and other personal management services.

Community Alternatives of Kentucky advocates self determination, civil rights, and community inclusion for people with special needs and developmental disabilities. They play an important role in local communities, promoting an inclusive quality of life that allows all people, regardless of personal challenges, to reach their potential as happy and productive members of society.

I applaud Community Alternatives Kentucky, particularly their wonderful support staff, for all that they do to assist disabled individuals and their families. On behalf of so many in Kentucky's Second Congressional District, I would like to express my profound appreciation for their service and for the many contributions to our communities from the people they serve. Together, they are a true inspiration to us all.

It is my great privilege to recognize Community Alternatives Kentucky today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for their achievements as advocates for disabled citizens. Their unique compassion and dedication to the happiness and well-being of all people make them outstanding citizens worthy of our collective honor and respect.

HONORING OFFICER SCOTT
SEVERNS

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a solemn heart to honor a hero. On April 21, 2006 Cpl. Scott Severns of the South Bend Police Department was shot during an attempted robbery. He succumbed to his wounds and passed early the next morning.

I have heard it said that at times like these, we should not focus on how someone dies, but on how they lived, but how Cpl. Severns died was a testament to how he lived. When two would-be robbers approached Cpl. Severns and a female companion, brandished a gun, and threatened them, Cpl. Severns instinctively stepped in between the gunman and his friend. Character like this cannot be taught through a police academy course, and it is not issued to every officer after their swearing in. This type of valor can only come from an individual with the heart of a hero.

We oftentimes do not take enough time to appreciate the sacrifice that law enforcement officers make every single day so that we can live in safety. It is easy for us to go about our daily lives without a thought about those that stand in between us and those that would try to hurt us.

Cpl. Severns's sacrifices from the moment he first put on his uniform, until his tragic, premature end, exemplify the best of American law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, we would be remiss if we did not take this time to honor his service, remember his sacrifice, and mourn his passing.

INTRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY
ENGINEERED REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of six bills I introduced today that will provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for all genetically engineered plants, animals, bacteria, and other organisms. The bills will protect our food, environment, and health. They are a common sense precaution to ensure genetically engineered foods do no harm.

Genetic engineering is having a serious impact on the food we eat, on the environment, and on farmers. To ensure we can maximize benefits and minimize hazards, Congress must provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for all genetically engineered products.

Current laws, such as our food safety and environmental laws, were not written with this technology in mind. Clearer laws are necessary to ensure that these new scientific capabilities and the associated impacts are closely monitored.

The six bills include the Genetically Engineered Food Right to Know Act of 2006, which requires food companies to label all foods that contain or are produced with genetically engineered materials and instructs the Food and Drug Administration to conduct periodic tests to ensure compliance. This is a basic consumer rights and consumer safety issue. People have a right to know what is in the food they are eating, and that the food is safe.

Combined, these bills would ensure that consumers are protected, increase food safety, protect farmers rights, make biotech companies liable for their products, and help developing nations resolve hunger concerns

SUMMARY OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD LEGISLATION

THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

Consumers wish to know whether the food they purchase and consume is a genetically engineered food. Concerns include the potential transfer of allergens into food and other health risks, potential environmental risks associated with the genetic engineering of crops, and religiously and ethically based dietary restrictions. Adoption and implementation of mandatory labeling requirements for genetically engineered food produced in the United States would facilitate international trade. It would allow American farmers and companies to export and appropriately market their products—both genetically engineered and non-genetically engineered—to foreign customers. This bill acknowledges consumers have a right to know what genetically engineered foods they are eating:

Requires food companies to label all foods that contain or are produced with genetically engineered material and requires the FDA to periodically test products to ensure compliance.

Voluntary, non-GE food labels are authorized.

A legal framework is established to ensure the accuracy of labeling without creating significant economic hardship on the food production system.

THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD SAFETY ACT

Given the consensus among the scientific community that genetic engineering can potentially introduce hazards, such as allergens or toxins, genetically engineered foods need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and cannot be presumed to be generally recognized as safe. The possibility of such hazards dictates a cautious approach to genetically engineered food approvals. However, FDA has glossed over the food safety concerns of genetically engineered foods and not taken steps to ensure the safety of these genetically engineered foods. This bill requires that all genetically engineered foods follow a strenuous food safety review process:

Requires FDA to screen all genetically engineered foods through the current food additive process to ensure they are safe for

human consumption, yet continues FDA discretion in applying the safety factors that are generally recognized as appropriate.

Requires that unique concerns be explicitly examined in the review process, a phase out of antibiotic resistance markers, and a prohibition on known allergens.

Requires the FDA to conduct a public comment period of at least 30 days

THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROP AND ANIMAL FARMER PROTECTION ACT

Agribusiness and biotechnology companies have rapidly consolidated market power at the same time as the average farmer's profits and viability have significantly declined. Policies promoted by biotech corporations have systematically acted to remove basic farmer rights enjoyed since the beginning of agriculture. These policies include unreasonable seed contracts, the intrusion into everyday farm operations, and liability burdens. The introduction of genetically engineered crops has also created obstacles for farmers, including the loss of markets and increased liability concerns. To mitigate the abuses upon farmers, a clear set of farmer rights must be established. This bill provides several farmer rights and protections to maintain the opportunity to farm:

Farmers may save seeds and seek compensation for failed genetically engineered crops.

Biotech companies may not: shift liability to farmers; nor require access to farmer's property; nor mandate arbitration; nor mandate court of jurisdiction; nor require damages beyond actual fees; nor charge more to American farmers for use of this technology, than they charge farmers in other nations, or any other unfair condition.

Seed companies must: ensure seeds labeled non-GE are accurate; provide clear instructions to reduce cross-pollination, which contaminates other fields; and inform farmers of the risks of using genetically engineered crops.

The EPA is required to evaluate the concern of Bt resistant pests and take actions necessary to prevent resistance to Bt, an important organic pesticide.

The bill prohibits genetic engineering designed to produce sterile seeds and loan discrimination based on the choice of seeds an agricultural producer uses.

THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISM LIABILITY ACT

Biotech companies are selling a technology that is being commercialized far in advance of the new and unknown science of genetic engineering. Farmers may suffer from crop failures, neighboring farmers may suffer from cross pollination, increased insect resistance, and unwanted "volunteer" genetically engineered plants, and consumers may suffer from health and environmental impacts. Therefore, biotech companies should be found liable for the failures of genetically engineered crops. This bill ensures that the creator of the technology assumes all liability:

The bill places all liability from negative impacts of genetically engineered organisms squarely upon the biotechnology companies that created the genetically engineered organism.

Farmers are granted indemnification to protect them from the liabilities of biotech companies.

The bill prohibits any transfer of liability away from the biotechnology companies that created the genetically engineered organism.

REAL SOLUTIONS TO WORLD HUNGER ACT

The demand for mandatory labeling, safety testing, and farmer protections do not constitute obstacles to the cessation of world hunger. Economics remain the significant

barrier to a consistent food supply, and the development of expensive genetically engineered foods may only exacerbate this trend. Almost all research funding for the development of genetically engineered food target the developed nation's agriculture and consumers. However, agroecological interventions have had significantly more success in helping developing nations feed themselves with higher yields and improved environmental practices, all within reasonable costs for developing countries. This bill offers several new initiatives and protections to help developing nations resolve their hunger concerns:

To protect developing nations, genetically engineered exports are restricted to those already approved in the U.S. and approved by the importing nation.

The bill creates an international research fund for sustainable agriculture research paid for the Sustainable Agriculture Trust Fund, a small tax on biotechnology company profits.

THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED PHARMACEUTICAL AND INDUSTRIAL CROP SAFETY ACT

A pharmaceutical crop or industrial crop is a plant that has been genetically engineered to produce a medical or industrial product, including human and veterinary drugs. Many of the novel substances produced in pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops are for particular medical or industrial purposes only. These substances are not intended to be incorporated in food or to be spread into the environment. That would be equivalent to allowing a prescription drug in the food supply. Experts acknowledge that contamination of human food and animal feed is inevitable due to the inherent imprecision of biological and agricultural systems. This contamination by pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops pose substantial liability and other economic risks to farmers, grain handlers, and food companies. This bill attempts to prevent contamination of our food supply by pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops.

The bill places a temporary moratorium on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops until all regulations required in this bill are in effect.

The bill places a permanent moratorium on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops grown in an open-air environment and on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops grown in a commonly used food source.

The United States Department of Agriculture shall establish a tracking system to regulate the growing, handling, transportation, and disposal of all pharmaceutical and industrial crops and their byproducts to prevent contamination.

The National Academy of Sciences shall submit to Congress a report that explores alternatives methods to produce pharmaceuticals or industrial chemicals that have the advantage of being conducted in controlled production facilities and do not present the risk of contamination.

STATEMENT ON COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of "Cover the Uninsured Week," which runs from May 1–7, 2006. This annual nationwide campaign asks Americans from all walks of life to demand that health coverage

for Americans be a top priority. I look forward to the day when we will no longer need such a week because all Americans would have the coverage they need.

Mr. Speaker, as it stands, nearly 46 million Americans—8 million of whom are children—have no health care coverage. The health insurance and health care crisis in this country is worsening each year. As health care costs continue to rise, every family's health care coverage is at risk. Job-based health insurance continues to decline, and for millions of low-income workers, health care coverage is not even an option.

I am particularly dismayed about the high rates of uninsurance for certain populations. Californians have among the highest rates of uninsurance in the Nation. More than one in five Californians—nearly 6.6 million children and adults under age 65—were uninsured for all or part of the year. Racial and ethnic minorities also have high rates of uninsurance. Racial and ethnic minorities comprise about one-third of the U.S. population but disproportionately comprise 52 percent of the uninsured. One in five African Americans are uninsured, one in three Latino Americans is uninsured, and nearly one in three Native Americans and Alaska Natives are uninsured.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), I want to highlight the fact that one out of every five Asian Pacific Islander Americans does not have health insurance. Overall, Asian Pacific Islander Americans are far more likely to be uninsured than non-Latino Whites (21 percent vs. 14 percent). Uninsurance rates vary significantly by subgroup. For example, 34 percent of Korean Americans, 27 percent of Southeast Asian Americans, and about 20 percent of Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, and South Asian Americans do not have health insurance.

The health of our Nation is dependent upon the health of our citizens. We need a healthy society if we are to remain globally competitive in education, technology, business, and other areas. Our top priority in Congress should be to find solutions to transform our healthcare system into one that is comprehensive, universal, and sustainable.

Our Federal investment must reflect this priority to provide coverage for the 46 million Americans across the country who deserve a guaranteed health insurance system. We must expand our Federal safety net, stop slashing Medicare and Medicaid, and work to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. We owe it to our parents, children, and future generations to solve this problem.

HONORING GOVERNOR JOHN ANDERSON

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor the work of Governor John Anderson, a man who chose a life of public service. His service to Kansas and the United States was spread across the middle part of this century and spread across the three branches of our government.

After being educated by both Kansas State University and the University of Kansas he

began his career as a public servant by joining the staff of U.S. District Court Judge Walter Huxman. Continuing with the judicial branch, Governor Anderson was elected as Johnson County Attorney in 1947. His election to Kansas State Senate in 1953 gave him the opportunity to serve as one of Kansas' state legislators for three years. Governor Anderson was appointed as Kansas Attorney General in 1956 and was then elected Governor in 1960.

During his two years in the state's top position, Governor Anderson used his diverse government experiences to help reform and restructure several institutions, including: the state's pardon and parole systems; the public welfare system; and the state's public school system.

I would encourage my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring this public servant by passing H.R. 4674, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 North Chestnut Street in Olathe, Kansas, as the "Governor John Anderson, Jr. Post Office Building."

HONORING NOTRE DAME SCHOOL IN MICHIGAN CITY, IN

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, today I have the privilege of honoring an academic institution that should stand as an example of what is good and right about our education system in America. All too often we rush to give a speech about what we feel is wrong in this country, but I believe that it is much more admirable to have that same intensity with what is right about our great country.

Notre Dame School has provided an excellent education for preschoolers all the way through 8th graders for 50 years. They have built and strengthened the characters of thousands of students instilling in them an appreciation of service and the discipline of excellence.

Notre Dame School students have consistently scored in the 95th percentile on Indiana's statewide standardized tests, and have continually produced leaders for this country, most notably our current Chief Justice of the Supreme Court John Roberts.

Mr. Speaker, words cannot convey how privileged I feel to have such a school within the 2nd Congressional District. I congratulate Principal Karen Breen, all of the teachers, administrators, staff and students of Notre Dame School on 50 years of excellence, and I look forward to 50 more years of great achievements.

A TAX CUT FOR THE REST OF US

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, the "Tax Cut for the Rest of Us" Act of 2006 (H.R. 5257) transforms the standard income tax deduction into a "refundable" standard tax credit. Doing so will not only simplify the tax code, but put

more money into the pockets of poor Americans.

For 25 years, refundable tax credits—such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and the “additional child tax credit”—have proven to be simple, effective ways to help the poor.

The logical next step is to transform the standard deduction and personal exemptions into a refundable standard tax credit (STC) of \$2,000 for each adult and \$1,000 for each child. The STC will provide all the poor with a small but badly needed tax credit, and give a tax cut to virtually everyone who chooses not to itemize their deductions.

Transforming the standard deduction into a refundable tax credit will not eliminate poverty, but it will be an enormous benefit to the poor who were completely overlooked by the Bush tax cuts. The poor pay sales taxes, property taxes, and many other taxes, but because they do not pay very much in income tax, they have little to gain from tax simplification unless it includes something like the STC.

Transforming the standard deduction into a standard tax credit will give a tax cut to those who need it most. Now is the time to pass a “Tax Cut for the Rest of Us.”

RECOGNIZING MEADOW HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKET- BALL TEAM

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the Meadow Heights High School boys basketball team in Patton, Missouri. They broke the state and national record for three point goals in a single game. On February 11, 2006, the Panthers made 36 three point goals in a 131–66 win against visiting Marquand.

The Panthers, who average about 21 three point goal attempts a game, made 16 in the first half. They broke the state record of 24 three point goals with 1:26 left in the third quarter. The basketball team scored one more three point goal in the quarter and 10 additional three point goals in the fourth quarter.

The feat surpassed the national record of 34 three point goals set by Juniata Valley High School of Alexandria, PA, according to the National Federation of High Schools, NFHS. NFHS certified the new school record on February 25, 2006.

This accomplishment was made possible by the hard work and cooperative effort of the Meadow Heights High School boys basketball team. These young men are a great example of teamwork and sportsmanship for the youth of Southern Missouri.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Head Coach Tom Brown, as well as the members of the Meadow Heights High School boys basketball team.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMTRAK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amtrak on its 35th Anniversary. Yesterday, Amtrak celebrated 35 years of committed service to America by providing reliable and safe transportation.

Rail service has integrated small communities with large cities across the country providing opportunity for economic expansion, increased mobility, and environmentally sound transit. With the creation of Amtrak in 1971, our country has benefited from organized, reliable and safe service to individuals commuting to and from work and individuals using rail service for extended travel. With the rising cost of airline flights, exceptionally high gas prices and bus stations being closed across the country, individuals are relying more and more on rail service.

In New Jersey, employers rely on an integrated rail operation to enable many of their employees to get to and from work. As a regular Amtrak rider, I appreciate the professionalism and service that customers enjoy every day. The continued operation of Amtrak is an essential component of easing traffic congestion, reducing wear and tear on roads, protecting our environment and preserving open space in New Jersey and across the country.

Amtrak needs the support of Congress. Funding cuts for Amtrak would have crippling effects on transit in New Jersey and many other states along the Northeast Corridor. In 2005, ridership reached a record level of more than 25 million riders, a 29 percent increase since 1996. We must meet the needs of millions of Amtrak riders through continued funding for this essential American service. We must help Amtrak maintain key infrastructure on the 650 route miles that Amtrak owns (out of 22,000 miles on which Amtrak operates), repair or replace old equipment, and encourage local and state investment.

I have always been a strong advocate for increased Amtrak funding and greater federal support for passenger rail service in New Jersey and throughout the country. I am a co-sponsor of the Amtrak Reauthorization Act, which would authorize funding through Fiscal Year 2008 for Amtrak operations and capital investment. We must show our commitment to Amtrak by reauthorizing funding instead of fighting every year to keep funding at a steady level.

Again, I congratulate Amtrak for its 35 years of service to our nation. Rail service is a fundamental component of our nation's continually growing transportation system, and Amtrak has demonstrated the capacity of integrated rail service to expand economic opportunity, commuter options, and make vital contributions to the fabric of our communities.

HONORING DANIEL AND CHRISTINA FINN OF THE PATRIOTIC PILLOW PROJECT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel and Christina Finn, founders of the Patriotic Pillow Project, also known as Operation Comfort.

Daniel T. Finn is a Vietnam veteran who proudly served his country during the years of 1966 and 1967. Upon return to the United States, Mr. Finn received a teaching degree and currently teaches at Carver, the Nation's largest public military academy in Chicago.

Christina Finn serves as a medical health professional. In this career, she has observed that the healing process includes both emotional and psychological healing, as well as physical repair. For this reason, when Dan and Christina's oldest son was deployed to Iraq, the Finn's founded the Patriotic Pillow Project. This project lovingly and respectfully collects pillows to send to wounded GIs to lift their spirits and honor the recipient.

United Airlines and an organization called C.A.R.C. in Chicago have provided the pillows. Then, anyone who can stitch a straight line and follow the pattern provided is encouraged to handcraft a pillow cover. The pillow covers are quilted replicas of our Nation's Flag.

Since September 2004, the Patriotic Pillow Project has received 4,350 pillows and delivered more than 2,350 finished gifts of gratitude. This is quite an accomplishment for a project that started out as a single page document distributed to friends and various organizations.

It is my honor to recognize Dan and Christina Finn, founders of the Patriotic Pillow Project for their many achievements in supporting our heroic American GIs.

RECOGNIZING FRESNO COUNTY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the county of Fresno upon the celebration of its 150th birthday which was on April 19, 2006. Since 1856, 6 years after California became a State, Fresno County has created a rich history mired in agricultural ingenuity, pride and immigrant perseverance. I was pleased to recently help Fresno County celebrate its storied journey with a gathering at its historic Santa Fe depot.

As we celebrate this occasion, it is only fitting that we go back to one of our county's beginning points, the Santa Fe depot. As a major hub for the valley's newly arrived, the depot marks the commencement of agricultural prosperity, serving as the location where many of the county's goods were transported to vast markets. Whether their arrival was by covered wagon, stagecoach or train, we celebrate the westward journey of the early settlers with the example set by our valley's student pioneers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th birthday of Fresno County. A story rich with tradition, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Fresno County's journey and future success.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
LANCE CORPORAL ERIC AN-
THONY PALMISANO TO OUR
COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Lance Corporal Eric

Anthony Palmisano, who died in a tragic accident while serving our Nation in Al Asad, Iraq.

Prior to joining the Marine Corps, Eric spent much of his early childhood living in Chicago and eventually moved to Tampa, Florida with his family. Eric had lived in central Florida since 1996, and attended the University of Central Florida where he was active in sports and studied criminal justice.

Eric enlisted in the Marine Corps and attended Basic Training in Camp Pendleton, California last year. He stood out both in training and during his service and quickly became one of the best Marines in his unit. Proud of his achievements, Eric once wrote to his fiancée, "This is an opportunity to prove—mostly to myself—that when I give something all my effort, I cannot fail."

We should all remember Eric's courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. The freedom we enjoy and the liberty in the world for which he fought are part of the great legacy that Lance Corporal Eric Anthony Palmisano leaves behind.

To Eric's fiancée and his entire family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, because of Lance Corporal Eric Anthony Palmisano's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his service in our Nation's Armed Forces and remembering both his life and his dedication to the United States of America.